

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRESSIONAL AGENDA: GOALS  
FOR A GENERATION

## HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to bring to my colleagues' attention the following article from the February 24, 1998, Tipp City Herald written by Congressman JOHN BOEHNER regarding the Republican Agenda.

[From the Tipp City Herald, Feb. 24, 1998]

CONGRESSIONAL AGENDA: GOALS FOR A  
GENERATION

(By John Boehner)

If you're like most Americans, you won't have time to scrutinize every detail of every bit of legislation tackled this year by Congress. Nonetheless, you'll probably identify with the principles behind our efforts: freedom, accountability, and personal responsibility.

My colleagues and I have begun the second half of the 105th Congress with a diverse 90-day agenda reflecting a wide range of issues from completing IRS reform and shrinking the size of government to expanding educational opportunities for our kids. While we tackle these measures in the weeks and months ahead, we'll also be working toward our long-term vision for America—something we call Goals for a Generation.

Our goals for a generation include a drug-free America; the best system of learning in the works; the best and safest retirement system in the world; and modernizing, privatizing, downsizing, and prioritizing government to reduce the total tax burden on families—state, federal, and local—to no more than 25 percent, with a simple, fair, and honest tax code. We'll address each of these goals legislatively this year—and in the years ahead—as we work for a better America in the next century.

In the coming weeks we'll explore the various components of the 90-day agenda and the Goals for a Generation and how they'll affect you and your family, but first it's important to discuss the three principles behind it all: freedom, accountability, and personal responsibility.

Freedom, accountability, and personal responsibility aren't just buzzwords; they're key principles that cut to the core of who we are as a people and what we value as a society. They're basic concepts that have defined America as a nation since its birth. And as diverse as our agenda in Congress this year is, they're at the heart of everything we'll do.

My colleagues and I are committed to enhancing freedom for Americans to live their lives, raise their families, and run their businesses without excessive government interference. We believe it's America's people—not America's government—that has made our nation great. And the bigger and more expensive Washington gets, the smaller and more overtaxed—and less free—people get.

We'll also continue our drive to restore accountability to Washington. Decades of run-

away spending and an explosion of regulation and red tape have created an unaccountable monster inside the Beltway—the vast federal bureaucracy. The result has been a government increasingly out of touch with the needs and goals of its citizens—one that while well-intentioned often hurts people more than it helps.

By balancing the budget for the first time in a generation, we've taken our first real steps toward smaller, less intrusive government, but we've got a long way to go.

Lastly, our goals reflect a fundamental belief that Americans will gladly accept personal responsibility to make the right choices in their lives, families and communities. While we're committed to expanding freedom for individuals, we also believe—as American's Founding Fathers did—that with freedom comes a certain responsibility.

Government can't raise a family, teach a child values, or create bonds between neighbors. Only people can do that—and they have a responsibility to do so.

It makes little sense to make laws and draft legislation without stopping to reflect on the core principles behind it. My colleagues and I took the opportunity to do that recently, and we're confident we're moving in the right direction.

We hope you and your family will agree.

## COMPETITION IS A GOOD THING

## HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise to comment on the current situation regarding competition in the long distance telephone service field. Two years after Congress has passed sweeping telecommunications reform, we are still waiting for real long distance competition to begin.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) seems to be creating more and more hoops for the regional phone companies to have to jump through, whether it be court proceedings or "moving target" standards, in order for them to provide long distance service.

If we are ever going to see true competition in the long distance field, the regulators at the FCC need to be sensitive to the realities of enabling local carriers to offer long distance service. Consumers deserve the opportunity to choose from a variety of long distance service options.

TRIBUTE TO THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN  
HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL  
MUSEUM

## HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Black History Month to pay tribute to the San Joaquin Valley African-American Historical and Cultural Museum. The African-American museum has been instrumental in exposing the history and contributions of African-Americans to the development of the San Joaquin Valley.

In 1983, an exhibit was set up as part of Fresno's One Hundred Year Centennial Celebration to show contributions African-American settlers had made toward the growth, prosperity, and cultural richness of Fresno County. By 1988, the exhibit had gained a great deal of popularity and needed to grow. Shortly following the exhibit's popularity, a donation by the State Center Community College District provided the space needed to move the exhibit into its first permanent exhibit hall where it remained until 1989. The museum has moved twice since then and now proudly rests in downtown Fresno.

The African-American Historical Museum is used for a variety of artistic, cultural, and historical presentations. The building has served as a community center for numerous community groups and organizations. In addition, the African-American Museum has hosted community forums, meetings, workshops, and recreational activities. In an effort to combat crime, enhance security, and bring about much needed social and physical change within the area, the African-American Museum has worked diligently to enhance and improve the neighborhood through various projects and community outreach activities.

The African-American Museum in Fresno is the only African-American Historical-Pictorial museum in the entire San Joaquin Valley. It houses some of the Valley's proudest pictorial moments, events, and heroes. Additionally, the museum is working with the City of Fresno and the Outreach Unit from the School of Professional Psychology and several local businessmen to sponsor a total youth involvement conference. The conference is directed toward crime prevention and positive redirection of youth participation within the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to the African-American Historical and Cultural Museum in honor of Black History Month. The museum symbolizes the long and storied history of contributions made by African-Americans to the development of the San Joaquin Valley. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the African-American Historical and Cultural Museum many more years of success.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

IN HONOR OF JOHN E. MOON

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John E. Moon, Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW). Mr. Moon has exhibited himself to be a model American through his proud service to his country throughout his life.

Mr. Moon attended Northwest State College and earned degrees in Business Management and Human Resources. Mr. Moon entered the United States Marine Corps in July 1968 and went on to a successful career of defending the interests of his nation. His outstanding service in the Vietnam conflict earned him numerous honors including three bronze stars, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, and the National Defense Service Medal.

After departing Vietnam, Mr. Moon went on to serve as Post Commander of his local VFW post, 2873, and served the people of Grover Hill, Ohio as their mayor for sixteen years. In his terms as local Post Commander, he was awarded the distinction of All State Post Commander. Mr. Moon also served on numerous national committees before achieving the top post in the VFW such as the Americanism committee which helps to inspire the American patriotic spirit within the populace of our nation, especially our youth. Mr. Moon was elected VFW Commander-in-Chief on August 21, 1997 at the VFW National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah.

My fellow colleagues, join me in saluting a true American patriot, one who believes the American spirit should continue to thrive in the hearts of all Americans, VFW Commander-in-Chief, John E. Moon.

COMMENDATION OF SARA ATKINSON AND ERIN ENO PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD WINNERS

**HON. PATSY T. MINK**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor two young Hawaii students from my district who achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in their communities. Sara Atkinson of Kealahou and Erin Eno of Wailuku have been named two of my states top honorees in the 1998 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred upon the most impressive student volunteers across America.

Sara Atkinson is being recognized for her initiative in developing a mentoring program for children who were at-risk for violence and substance abuse. Today, through Sara's commitment, over forty children now have mentors. These mentors not only counsel, but also participate in other community services like fund raising and food drives that benefit Ha-

wai's needy. I commend Sara for her dedication to assist and improve the community in which she lives.

Erin Eno is being recognized for her commitment to help the elderly. Erin sewed lap blankets and wheel chair bags for residents at a local nursing home. When Erin was told she was too young to volunteer, she decided to do something on her own initiative. She solicited fabrics from a local factory and generously gave her time and talent to sew blankets and wheelchair bags that benefited local nursing home residents. Erin is strongly committed to contributing to the community. Through her creativity and ingenuity she found a way to assist senior citizens in her community.

I applaud the selfless contributions made by Sara Atkinson and Erin Eno. I believe they are shining examples of how young citizens can make a positive impact on the lives of others. I commend them for their desire to help others. What they have done will encourage other young people to follow in their footsteps.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JANICE BRALY, ELEANOR LEMA, CAROL BLASINGAME, SALLY MAGNESON, AND SHIRLEY KIRKPATRICK

**HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Janice Braly, Eleanor Lema, Carol Blasingame, Sally Magnuson and Shirley Kirkpatrick for being recognized as the recipients of the Common Threads Award. The award recognizes women whose roots are in agriculture, and who have dedicated themselves to their community through volunteer service and philanthropic giving.

Janice Braly of O'Neals is a former State President of California Woman for Agriculture and a California 4-H foundation member. Among her other accomplishments are a University of California Davis Dean's Policy Council Member and Castaic School Board Association President. She is currently a member of both the California Cattle Women and the Madera County Cattle Women.

Eleanor Lema of Merced is a three-term Chapter President of California Women for Agriculture. She has been active in the Merced Chamber of Commerce for 10 years. Her accomplishments include being a Merced County Farmland Trust Board member for six years, a Merced Farm Bureau member for 20 years and a member of the Sorooptimist Club, where she served as a board member for 15 years.

Carol Blasingame of Fresno served as a Director for the Big Fresno Fair Director for three years. In 1996, she was President of the La Feliz Guild. Carol is a member of the Board of Directors of the Fresno City & County Historical Society, Chairman of the Fresno Fair Education Program, serves on the Ag Fresno Advisory Board, and is a member of California Women for Agriculture.

Sally Magnuson of Ballico served as President of the P.T.A. at three different schools, as a Brownie Leader, and as a Cadet Scouts

Leader. She is a past President and the founding member of the League of Women Voters of Merced County. Sally was formerly active on the California State Reclamation Board, as the President of the Sierra Club of Merced, and as a member of the Merced County Library Commission.

Shelly Kirkpatrick of Exeter is a 4-H Diamond Star, an Officer of the Central California Chapter of California Press Women's Association, and a member of the Tulare County Cattlemen Association. She is the founding member of the Tulare County Chapter of California Women for Agriculture and was elected to the Recreation Commission for the City of Exeter. Shirley currently serves on the Tulare County Planning Commission and is a member of the California Farm Bureau Land Use Commission.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I congratulate Janice Braly, Eleanor Lema, Carol Blasingame, Sally Magnuson, and Shirley Kirkpatrick for being recognized with the Common Threads Award. I applaud the contributions, ideas, and leadership they have exhibited in our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing these individuals many more years of success.

HONORING THE REV. BETSY SYMLIE

**HON. JACK QUINN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues a very special person in my district, the Reverend Betsy Smylie.

Reverend Smylie graduated from Harvard Radcliffe in 1975, and earned her Master of Divinity from Harvard in 1981. Upon graduation, Reverend Smylie began her career of service in Western New York.

Throughout her many years of service to our community, Reverend Smylie served as Vicar of Ephphatha and Diocesan Missioner to the Deaf. She has also demonstrated a true commitment to such important institutions for the Deaf as the St. Mary's School, Deaf Adult Services, and other agencies whose goal is empowerment for Western New York's hearing impaired.

In addition to her tremendous service to the Deaf, strong command of sign language, devotion to God and community, and leadership, she has obtained an extraordinary level of respect from our community, both as a scholar and preacher, and as an unyielding advocate.

Tragically, Reverend Smylie was admitted to the hospital on January 5th, 1998 with malignant brain cancer.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to join with the Town of Hamburg, and indeed, our entire Western New York community, to express our sincere best wishes to Reverend Betsy Smylie for a complete and speedy recovery through God's Healing Hand as she battles cancer.

Reverend Smylie has always had a love for our American government. It is only fitting that I now ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in prayer for the Reverend Smylie, and for



her husband, Reverend John Smylie, and their children, Shemaleiah and Nathan.

# IN HONOR OF REVEREND WATKINS

## HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I write to congratulate you on your calling to serve as the Senior Pastor of the 125 year old Nazarene Congregational United Church of Christ in Brooklyn.

As a native son of the State of Texas you exemplify the belief that everything and everyone in Texas is just a little larger than life. Your illustrious background has encompassed ministering to students at numerous colleges, universities and churches.

You have also served your country with excellence as Coordinator of Health, Education and Welfare Transition Planning Group for the Ford-Carter Transition. As a scholar of all facets of economic justice, you served as a consultant to President Carter in several upper level positions which provided economic assistance to many Americans.

Your belief that "Loving pastoral care and efficient management of the business of the church is extremely important if greater emphasis is to be placed on the spiritual development of the congregation" is a phrase which embodies your caring and intelligent concern for your fellow man.

I feel that the lives of the parishioners of the Nazarene Congregational United Church of Christ will be greatly enriched by your spiritual leadership. It is my most sincere hope that you will continue to enjoy good health for many years to come and that you will be able to fulfill all your plans for the future.

# TO ESTABLISH A SELECT COMMITTEE ON POW AND MIA AFFAIRS

## HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, over 2,100 Americans are still unaccounted for from the war in Vietnam, over 8,100 from the Korean Conflict, and nearly 78,800 from World War II. It is imperative that the accounting of each and every one of our POWs and MIAs be given the highest priority by our government and by this Congress.

Because I feel so strongly about finding new information on American POWs and MIAs, and as a result of the hundreds of thousands of family members who want to find the truth about their loved ones, I am asking my colleagues to cosponsor H. Res. 16—a resolution establishing a Select Committee on POW and MIA Affairs.

As many of you know, the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs released its final report several years ago. But as Mem-

bers of Congress, we need to keep asking the tough questions and demanding hard answers on this issue.

This proposed Select Committee on POW and MIA Affairs will conduct a full investigation of all unresolved matters relating to any United States personnel unaccounted for from the Vietnam era, the Korean conflict, or World War II, including MIAs and POWs.

This temporary select committee will present its final report by January 5, 1999, setting forth its findings and recommendations as a result of its investigation, and then terminate.

We must continue with vigilance the work by our government to achieve a full accounting of every American POW/MIA. We have a moral obligation to give this issue our immediate and undivided attention. Please join me in this effort and cosponsor H. Res. 16.

# IN HONOR OF LUCIE J. DUVAL

## HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lucie J. Duvall, Lieutenant of the Cleveland Police Department, on her retirement after twenty-five years of public service. Her outstanding service to the city of Cleveland will not be forgotten.

Lt. Duvall entered the Cleveland Police Department on February 20, 1973 and soon after became one of the first females assigned to basic patrol. During her tenure in the Fourth District of the department, Lt. Duvall worked as a Scientific Investigative Unit and was instrumental in combating the prostitution problem in Downtown Cleveland. Lt. Duvall achieved the rank of Sergeant in 1981 and became a supervisor of the Hostage Negotiation Team. Lt. Duvall continued her work in the department as a member of the Child Pornography Task Force and was an original member of the Ohio Children's Trust Fund.

Lt. Duvall achieved a hallmark in her career in 1982 when she became the first female police officer to head a vice unit in America. Lt. Duvall was promoted to her current rank of Lieutenant in 1982 and continued her fight for the protection of children. Lt. Duvall graduated from the F.B.I. National Academy in 1984 and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Dyke College in 1993. Lt. Duvall was recently named Detective Bureau Coordinator in the Bureau of Special Investigation in Cleveland in 1995.

My fellow colleagues, join me in saluting a model police officer, a woman who has pioneered numerous fields within the Cleveland police department, Lieutenant Lucie J. Duvall.

# IN RECOGNITION OF PEACE CORPS DAY '98

## HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today educators and former Peace Corps volunteers

came together across the country to take part in Peace Corps Day '98. By speaking in classrooms throughout America, returned Peace Corps volunteers shared their experiences with a new generation of Americans to enhance cross-cultural understanding, and strengthen global education. The events of Peace Corps Day '98 teach young people the value of service to those who are in need.

Since 1961, when the Peace Corps was established by President John F. Kennedy, over 150,000 men and women have volunteered in over 132 countries around the world. I am proud to say that I am one of the 6,500 Ohioans among that number.

For 37 years, the Peace Corps has brought together bright, energetic people who are committed to service, and has equipped them with the tools to serve in foreign countries as representatives of peace. Today, over 6,500 Americans serve as Peace Corps volunteers in over 84 countries. These individuals are helping to create a better future for the local people with whom they work. Peace Corps volunteers are laboring to help communities improve sanitation, cultivate food, and gain access to clean water. These volunteers are teaching English, math, and science; and helping local entrepreneurs start new businesses. Most importantly, however, Peace Corps volunteers are America's diplomats of peace and friendship around the world.

But, it is not easy. I know first-hand the challenges and difficulties faced by Peace Corps volunteers. I also know the tremendous rewards from my own Peace Corps experience. Simply put, it changed my life. When I graduated from college in 1964, my dreams were to play pro-football, make big money, and drive fast cars. Instead, I found myself teaching English and riding a bicycle through the jungles of Thailand.

I remember my first night in Thailand. While sitting in a restaurant, I watched a cat chase a rat across the floor and devour it. I thought, "what am I doing here?" But as my experience progressed, and I got to know the villagers, my entire outlook on life changed. I came home to America with a better understanding and appreciation of the world, with my priorities in order, and prepared for a life of public service.

Peace Corps Day '98 continues the proud legacy of the Peace Corps to instill within young people an understanding of the importance of service and to foster a better appreciation for the world. Today, more than 350,000 students in all 50 states learned about life in developing countries by talking with former Peace Corps volunteers who served overseas. Some students were able to learn about the experiences of volunteers currently serving in countries like Panama through video conferencing and speaker phone.

After 37 years, Peace Corps volunteers continue to work against hunger, illiteracy, and poverty to provide more opportunities to people around the world. Their years of service has improved the lives of millions. The success of Peace Corps volunteers and the continuing needs of the developing world has prompted President Clinton to request more funding for the Peace Corps in order to increase the number of volunteers. At the same

time, interest in the program has increased within the American public. In 1997, there was a 40% increase of individuals interested in serving as a volunteer since 1994.

Today, on Peace Corps Day '98, the Peace Corps deserves our appreciation and highest recognition as they continue to instill the value of service and volunteerism to young people throughout our nation.

TRIBUTE TO THE DOMINICAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION COMMITTEE OF HOSTOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON ITS CELEBRATION OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Dominican Heritage Celebration Committee of Hostos Community College in my South Bronx Congressional District on its celebration of the independence of the Dominican Republic during the week of February 27-March 5, 1998.

On Friday, thousands of members and friends of the Dominican community gathered at the Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture Small Theater to open Dominican Heritage Celebration Week.

The week-long celebration will feature a wide variety of entertainment for all age groups. A series of concerts, art exhibits, lectures and cultural performances will take place to commemorate the contributions of Dominicans to our community and our nation.

Now numbering more than 600,000, Dominicans are the fastest growing Hispanic immigrant community in New York City. With the election of the first Dominican to the City Council, the Honorable Guillermo Linares, and that of New York State Assemblyman, the Honorable Adriano Espaillat, we are witnessing a new generation of Politicians with Dominican roots. That is an encouraging advance.

Although the celebration is in the Bronx, the events bring people from all over New York City to celebrate. Organizations have encouraged different cultural and social organizations to take part in the festivities.

The week-long celebration will have numerous activities for the community to enjoy. Folkloric bands will entertain the crowds and there will also be foods and crafts typical to the Dominican Republic.

Mr. Speaker, it is with enthusiasm that I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful celebration of Dominican culture, which has brought much pride to the Bronx community.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A SALUTE TO EUGENE P. RUEHLMANN: 1998 GREAT LIVING CINCINNATIAN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a prominent Cincinnati and a friend, Eugene P. Ruehlmann, who was recently honored by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce as a Great Living Cincinnati. I thank him for the vision and service that he has so generously given to our area, and for the model he provides today.

Mr. Ruehlmann, a native Cincinnati, graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1948 and Harvard Law School in 1950. He served in the Marine Corps and then began a long career in public service. The major transformation of Cincinnati's innovative downtown began under Mr. Ruehlmann's leadership. As a member of the Cincinnati City Council and as Mayor of Cincinnati, he led the effort to keep the Reds in Cincinnati, attract a National Football League franchise to the city, build Riverfront Stadium (now Cinergy Field) and construct the Albert B. Sabin Convention Center.

Following the race riots in 1967, Mr. Ruehlmann worked to heal the city. He reformulated the city's Human Relations Commission, and founded the Mayor's Housing Coordinating Committee and the city's Project Commitment.

He has given his time to numerous charitable and community organizations, such as Children's Hospital, Children's Hospital Medical Center, Greater Cincinnati Foundation, the Work and Rehabilitation Center, March of Dimes and the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Along the way, he has built a successful law practice with Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease in Cincinnati, and served on the Board of Directors of the Center for Resolution of Disputes. In all these years, and with all these accomplishments, he has remained a devoted family man. He and his wife, Virginia, have raised eight children and now have twenty-three grandchildren.

All of us in Greater Cincinnati congratulate Gene Ruehlmann on his deserved selection as a Great Living Cincinnati, and thank him for his many years of distinguished service to our community.

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL SPORTSMANSHIP DAY

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor today's eighth annual celebration of National Sportsmanship Day. The objective of National Sportsmanship Day is to promote the critical role of ethics, honesty, and fair play in athletics and society in general.

Today, at more than 10,000 schools in all 50 states and over 100 countries, children will

be taught the skills of good sportsmanship and the importance of playing fair in sports and in life through programs, contests, and other activities. The skills these children learn will guide them through a lifetime of choices both on the court and off the field.

This program began at the Institute for International Sport, located in my district at my alma mater, the University of Rhode Island. Since its inception in 1990, this program has touched the lives of hundreds of thousands of young people across the world. The institute provides information and materials to participating schools on sports ethics, healthy competition, and fair and equitable play.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding those participating in this worthwhile program, and in extending my congratulations to the Institute for International Sport for being recognized by the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY AND MANDATES ARE NOT BENEFICIAL TO ECONOMY COMPETITION

HON. JOHN LINDER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that government authority and mandates are beneficial to economic competition. In fact, nations that have achieved the most impressive growth in the past have not been those with rigid government controls. Our telecommunications bill last Congress was an example of our putting trust in the power and potential of the marketplace.

For the past two years, however, I have watched and read about the latest regulatory battle or industry court battle. First, the telecom industries need to honor the intent of the act. Second, I am concerned that the FCC continues to advance in its own direction on many issues—a direction this Congress did not authorize. Somehow, we have to demand that the FCC and the regulators commit to implement this act the way we intended.

And for clarification—we intended less regulatory constraints and more competition in the marketplace. The competition we envisioned between the various telecommunications industries would secure lower prices for consumers, improve service to the American consumer, and accelerate the development of new technological breakthroughs in the telecommunications market. I hope we see the competition we envisioned as soon as possible.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE ERNEST THOMPSON, MAYOR OF ARTESIA, NM

HON. JOE SKEEN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Ernest



Thompson, who has served the last quarter-century as Mayor of the City of Artesia, which is located in my congressional district in south-eastern New Mexico.

Mayor Thompson was first elected in 1972. Today, the voters of Artesia will go to the polls to select a new mayor, and they will find his shoes hard to fill. Mayor Thompson has been active in the New Mexico Municipal League, having served as President and as a member of the board of directors. In the National League of Cities, the Mayor served as President of the Small Cities Advisory Council and is a current member of the Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

In 1939, almost 60 years ago, Mr. Thompson moved to Artesia from central Texas. He worked at the local Navajo Refining Company until his retirement. The Mayor is a member of the First United Methodist Church, and has spent the last 46 years as an active supporter of the Boy Scouts of America; having served as cub master, scout master, explorer leader, area executive board member and district chairman. He is a recipient of the Boy Scouts of America's Silver Beaver Award.

During Mayor Thompson's administration he initiated and completed almost \$30 million of important and necessary local construction projects including a law enforcement center, two fire stations, the Artesia center, a new warehouse, an airport terminal, a wastewater treatment plant, the remodeling and expansion of the Artesia Senior Citizens Center, the remodeling of City Hall, the expansion and remodeling of Artesia Library, and several street and water/wastewater infrastructure projects. Many of these projects were assisted with federal funding through Urban Renewal, Neighborhood Development and Community Development Block Grants which were also matched by the State of New Mexico.

Mr. Thompson has been active in Artesia's important local civic groups including the Artesia Rotary Club, the New Mexico Gideons, the Artesia Quarterback Club and the Artesia Parents and Boosters Club. Mayor Thompson's wife of 55 years, Grace, has always lent her loving support for his many efforts and accomplishments on behalf of the citizens of Artesia. They have one son and two grandchildren.

I ask my colleagues today to take a special moment to recognize and thank Mayor Thompson for his 26 years of outstanding and distinguished service and congratulate him on a job well-done. Artesia will always fondly remember the accomplishments of the Mayor: Ernest Thompson.

#### THE SPEAKER'S TASK FORCE ON THE HONG KONG TRANSITION

**HON. DOUG BEREUTER**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, the following is the second quarterly report of the Task Force on the Hong Kong Transition. It follows the first report dated October 1, 1997, and it was prepared and compiled by those Mem-

bers of Congress (Representative DOUG BEREUTER, Representative ALCEE HASTINGS, and Representative DONALD MANZULLO) who traveled to Hong Kong, Macau, Shenzhen, and Beijing from December 13-20 as part of their responsibilities as Members of the Task Force. The report reflects the observations of the Task Force during the trip but also includes other information compiled before and after the trip up to December 31, 1997.

#### SUMMARY OF SECOND REPORT

In the first report of the Speaker's Task Force on the Hong Kong Transition, Hong Kong's reversion to China was characterized as "so far, so good." Six months after the official reversion that characterization still applies. However, nearly all observers agree it is "too early to tell" whether Hong Kong will be greatly affected by the transition and/or whether the United States' significant interests in Hong Kong will be adversely affected. From all perspectives both within and outside of Hong Kong, the very negative scenarios for Hong Kong, which many had predicted thus far, have not occurred. Undoubtedly, this is due in part to a determined effort by officials from the People's Republic of China (PRC) to respect Hong Kong's autonomy under the "one-country, two-systems" formula. Despite the fact that the fundamental underlying reasons for China's stance remain the same, there is no assurance that the outcome from those objectives will still prevail.

To date, the Hong Kong people seem to enjoy the same basic liberties and rights they enjoyed prior to the reversion. However, this is tempered by the abolition of the Legislative Council and its replacement by a provisional legislature which was "selected," but not elected, by the people of Hong Kong. Most observers agree that Hong Kong and Beijing officials responsible for implementing the "one-country, two-systems" framework are "on their best behavior." Yet, one overriding concern remains: Are Hong Kong officials subtly anticipating what Beijing desires and not in all instances vigorously pursuing the autonomy they have out of fear they will upset Beijing? At least with regard to routine matters, Hong Kong government officials seem quick to assert their own autonomy. There also is some evidence that Hong Kong officials may be seeking to influence policies on the "mainland." But on more sensitive issues such as President Jiang's interaction with protesters, Hong Kong officials may be attempting to put on a good face for Beijing. If such attempts to "out royal the queen" are really occurring in Hong Kong, a subtle and seemingly invisible erosion of Hong Kong's autonomy could be happening without being fully discernible.

#### BEIJING: HONORING ITS COMMITMENTS

Chinese officials in Beijing and Hong Kong who are responsible for implementing the "one-country, two-systems" legal framework are clearly bending over backwards to demonstrate a policy of non-interference in the areas of Hong Kong's autonomy (every aspect of governance except, as specified, foreign affairs and defense). In meeting after meeting, officials of Hong Kong and China reiterated the "one-country, two-systems" framework and provided anecdotes of decisions with which Beijing or its representatives in Hong Kong were not involved—like Hong Kong's defense of its own currency during the monetary crisis. In one instance, a Chinese official recounted that he was informally approached by a Hong Kong official about an issue falling in the monetary policy

arena. That official recounted declining to offer an opinion because it was in Hong Kong's own autonomy. Another example of deference occurred when PRC officials reportedly approached Hong Kong officials regarding South Africa's mission to Hong Kong (a matter all parties agree lies within Beijing's sole authority for foreign affairs).

One good test of the non-interference of PRC officials is Hong Kong's self-reporting under two key international covenants on human rights. When pressed on the issue, Ma Yuzhen, PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs Commissioner, stated that his office intends to function only as a "conveyor belt" transferring the reports from Hong Kong to the United Nations in New York without suggested changes or even recommendations.

One example of Hong Kong's continued autonomy involves the decision to let British expatriates in the Hong Kong government join the official PRC delegation to such international organizations as the World Intellectual Property Organization. Moreover, Hong Kong officials demonstrated their autonomy at the last Working Group meeting in Geneva on China's accession to the World Trade Organization by submitting seventeen questions in China's new services offer.

But the question remains as to whether Hong Kong officials are altering their actions so as to please Beijing on certain matters. One Hong Kong journalist termed this practice the new "political correctness." This practice could greatly influence how the Hong Kong government handles the requirement in Article 23 of the Basic Law that it enact laws prohibiting acts of treason, secession, sedition, subversion against the Central Government, and theft of state secrets. However, while many people accuse Hong Kong officials of this "political correctness" toward Beijing, the only evidence of such actions occurring involves the Hong Kong government's alleged movement of protesters away from a site where President Jiang Zemin was to be during his visit to Hong Kong, the removal of Taiwan flags from a public bridge during that Taiwan's national day, and also an alleged informal request from the PRC for an opinion by a Hong Kong official on an international monetary policy issue.

Many other controversial issues are labeled by various government opposition groups as falling within this category of "political correctness" on the part of Hong Kong officials, but it is often impossible to discern the motives behind the policy. For example, the Hong Kong government's decision to require more than three hundred schools to comply with a directive to use Cantonese as the medium of instruction in secondary schools (while allowing more than one hundred schools to continue to teach English) could either be a "practical" decision to improve understanding and instruction in the schools or a "patriotic" move.

Similarly, opposition politicians in Hong Kong have vigorously criticized the Hong Kong government for its handling of the Avian flu crisis, arguing that an embargo was not placed on birds from China for fear of angering Chinese officials. However, the Hong Kong government quickly consulted and cooperated with international health officials in an attempt to contain the flu. They also eventually and completely banned the importation of chickens from China, thereby placing significant economic hardship on local producers in China, and slaughtered and discarded all chickens in Hong Kong.

#### POLITICAL AND LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

One real caveat to the "so far, so good" characterization of the Hong Kong transition

is the roll back of democratic reforms in Hong Kong. Though Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa argues that the number of directly elected seats of the Legislative Council (Legco) will increase to thirty by the year 2004, he bluntly admits that democratic reform in Hong Kong is "not a priority at this moment." He says that he will do "what is right for Hong Kong" and that, he makes clear, is to let democracy mature slowly.

The Task Force's initial report characterized the changes in Hong Kong's elections laws as a "remaining concern." While it appears that all major political parties in Hong Kong are active in preparing for the May 1998 Legco elections, the number of votes cast will diminish because of changes to Hong Kong's Electoral Law which abolished mass-membership functional constituencies and restricted the numbers of Hong Kongers eligible to vote in the thirty functional seat contests. Unlike the September 1995 Legislative elections, when more than two million Hong Kongers had votes in functional constituencies in addition to their votes in the districts where they lived, in 1998 only 200,000 voters will be eligible to pick the 30 legislators representing functional constituencies. (News reports show registration of functional constituencies to be very low but it is difficult to determine whether general apathy or apathy created by electoral law changes have caused this low registration turnout.)

Moreover, while it is impossible to prove the motive for the election law changes, it is clear that the Democratic Party will lose representation in the newly constituted Legco because of the aforementioned changes and because of the additional election law changes requiring use of a "proportional representation" system to determine election winners. Martin Lee, Democratic Party Chairman, predicts that the representation of "Democratic Party and friends" will fall from twenty-six in the abolished legislature to fifteen in the newly elected legislature in May of 1998.

Most political observers in Hong Kong have welcomed the Provisional Legislature's adoption of a doctrine of "essentiality," i.e., only considering and approving legislation that is absolutely essential during its transition period until an elected legislature is put into place. However, it is unclear whether the Hong Kong government's decision to postpone consideration of a bill prohibiting acts of treason, secession, sedition, subversion against the Central Government, and theft of state secrets means that the legislation will be more or less restrictive of the Hong Kong peoples' basic rights. Clearly, this issue will be one of the first important tests of the newly elected Hong Kong legislature and current government. Future benchmarks include the government's responsiveness to Hong Kong public opinion when formulating legislation (as it appeared to do in the formulation of the societies ordinance) and whether the Hong Kong government strictly enforces the legislation, once enacted.

#### HONG KONG'S CUSTOMS AUTONOMY: A PROMISING START BUT TOO EARLY TO JUDGE

Indicators suggest that Hong Kong is fully exercising its autonomy as a separate customs territory within China. Law enforcement cooperation between Hong Kong police and Customs and U.S. Customs remains "much the same" and, according to U.S. officials, there appears to be "no change in the working relationship." Nevertheless, it is "too early to judge" whether long-term U.S. trade, security, and law enforcement inter-

ests in Hong Kong ultimately will be affected by the transition.

To prevent smuggling through its port, Hong Kong Customs employs four hundred people but is only able to examine approximately 1300 of the 13.5 million containers per year which move throughout the entrepot territory. In addition, the border between Hong Kong and Shenzhen currently handles 14,000 vehicles per day, and that number is increasing daily. "Without good intelligence," U.S. officials say, Hong Kong customs' task in finding smuggling is like "looking for a needle in the haystack." American officials acknowledge, however, that their Hong Kong counterparts "do as good a job as anyone."

In November, the U.S. Foreign Commercial Service performed thirty post-shipment verifications on export licenses and found only one or two questionable situations. Moreover, those questions were resolved upon further inspection. A U.S. interagency team on export controls traveled to Hong Kong on January 12, 1998, as part of a bilateral cooperation agreement between Secretary of Commerce William Daley and Hong Kong Trade and Industry Secretary Denise Yue. The conclusions of that meeting were not available for this report. Hong Kong's customs service has demonstrated continued diligence and quick response on two potentially serious diversions from North Korea of unlicensed tank barrels and rocket fuel. The customs service now has legislation to catch "middle men" in Hong Kong who facilitate diversions not actually involving the Hong Kong port. In this respect it is similar to the United States and a leader in the world.

One continuing complaint by U.S. law enforcement officials involves Hong Kong's laissez faire approach to money being personally carried in and out of Hong Kong. There is no reporting requirement for travelers doing this, and Hong Kong is therefore an ideal place for laundering money. Note: This situation existed in Hong Kong prior to the transition and therefore is not a resulting problem. Nevertheless, it would seem desirable for the U.S. Government to recommend that the Hong Kong government mirror U.S. reporting requirements in order to stem the flow of money laundering.

U.S. officials give Hong Kong Customs high marks for recent stepped-up efforts on textile transshipments, but lower marks for their enforcement of intellectual property rights violations. Hong Kong Customs claims difficulty in "going after the kingpins" and, instead, arrests the sellers at the retail level of pirated material. More blatantly, some well-known arcades certainly do rather openly market pirated software and compact discs. Some Hong Kong officials complain that the reason that pirated products remain on sale in legitimate retail stores is that "there is no deterrent"—judges are too lenient. However, recent increases in jail terms along with expanded enforcement powers for Customs officers may have a positive effect in reducing piracy. Also, the government has introduced legislation that should help enable Customs to control illicit production.

#### ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN HONG KONG

If one were only to examine the Heritage Foundation's annual Index of Economic Freedom or the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong's annual confidence survey, one might wrongly conclude that Hong Kong's economic outlook remains unchanged from last year. However, regional economic woes beginning in the summer of 1997 have had a significant impact on Hong Kong.

Drawing on large international currency reserves and a strong determination to defend the HK\$-US\$ peg, Hong Kong was able to weather an initial attack on its currency caused by the financial turmoil throughout Asia. This led, however, to a sharp rise in interest rates as well as large drops in the stock and property markets. After rising to a new high in August, the stock market fell almost 40% during the last week of October. Since bottoming out in November of 1997, however, the Hang Seng index has battled back to levels recorded in April of 1997. (Information compiled after January 1, 1998) The real estate market is important to Hong Kong's economic viability and stability, and it certainly has an important effect on U.S. firms and citizens residing there. Residential property prices have been trimmed by 20%-30% in recent months.

Tourism in Hong Kong also has noticeably declined and it is difficult to predict how significantly the region-wide financial crisis will further affect this key industry. An additional issue of concern is the fact that the Peregrine Investment Corporation, Hong Kong's largest investment firm, declared bankruptcy on January 12, 1998. (Information compiled after January 1, 1998)

Despite recent difficulties, short-term confidence in the Hong Kong dollar seems strong, and policy makers express a continuing determination to defend the peg. (There are, however, a growing number of dissenters who maintain that Hong Kong will not be able to maintain the peg in the long term, principally because they predict China will eventually devalue the renminbi.) Hong Kong's banking sector and its regulatory regime are strong. Monetary figures show no sign of capital flight or panic. Hong Kong's foreign exchange reserves reached U.S. \$96.5 billion in November 1997.

#### MACAU

Macau will revert to China on December 20, 1999, and become yet another Special Administrative Region. Like the British, Portugal negotiated a Joint Declaration with the PRC government that establishes a "one-country, two systems" formula for Macau. Although there are many similarities between the imminent Macau reversion to China and that of Hong Kong, there are several key differences.

If for no reason other than size, Macau has only a modest effect upon U.S. vital interests. Macau buys only one percent of the total exports which the U.S. sends to Hong Kong, and it houses only 1% of the number of Americans as reside in Hong Kong. Nevertheless, there are legitimate U.S. concerns in the areas of drug smuggling and intellectual property rights violations. For example, it is believed that a considerable portion of the region's illicit compact disc and videotape production lines may have moved to Macau. Estimates suggest that a hundred million or more illegal compact discs and movies per annum may now be produced in Macau. Exacerbating the illicit production problems in Macau are contradictory actions taken by the local courts concerning the government's seizure of equipment used in the illegal production lines.

Organized gang warfare is also a matter of legitimate concern. Early in 1997, Macau was featured in the news by reports about gang fighting or turf wars. Macau officials argue that the overall crime rate in Macau has been exaggerated by the sensational nature of the stories.

Macau's reversion to China presents several other key differences from Hong Kong's reversion to China. For example, Macau has



a "through train" for its Legislative Assembly and therefore will not have to cope with the provisional legislature scenario currently existing in Hong Kong. This body currently has twenty-three assembly members of which two-thirds are elected. It also has an ambitious legislative agenda for 1998 that includes localization of the major Portuguese codes and human rights initiatives. Of concern is the fact that the Macau Legislative Assembly was unable in 1997 to pass several human rights initiatives. Other key issues for Macau which pose difficult transition issues include localization of the civil service and nationality issues. With the approval of the Speaker for an expanded area of responsibility because of Macau's relevance to the Hong Kong transition and its proximity, the Task Force would propose to similarly observe and report on the Macau transition.

#### ADDITIONAL NOTE

Although there have been many economic developments in Hong Kong after December 31, 1997, this report generally reflects those developments occurring before that date. There are limited exceptions where the report comments on events occurring after December 31, 1997, and they are indicated appropriately.

#### TRIBUTE TO GARY GIACOMINI

##### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual, Mr. Gary Giacomini. Gary is being honored by the Citizens Foundation of Marin and the Marin Council of Agencies as the 1997 Citizen of the Year.

Marin County has a history of electing wonderful members to the Marin Board of Supervisors and Gary is a prime example. He fought hard for his constituents. In fact, he still is fighting for them. Gary truly loved his job. As a member of many county and state agencies, from the Marin County Transit District to the California Coastal Commission, Gary supported the issues that are important to the residents of Marin County.

I have had the pleasure to work with Gary on several Marin County issues. But where I've gotten to really know him is through the Pt. Reyes National Seashore. Shortly after I was elected to the House, Gary came to me with his vision to encourage agriculture by protecting lands east of the National Seashore from development. Based on Gary's vision, I introduced H.R. 1995, the Pt. Reyes National Seashore Farmland Protection Act, to offer willing land owners conservation easements to support agriculture. I made H.R. 1995 one of my top priorities. I will always appreciate Gary sharing his vision with me, and I will always be thankful for his support.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay tribute to Gary Giacomini. His dedication and success to preserve agriculture in Marin County and fight for the causes he and his constituents believe in is admirable. I wish Gary and his family the best.

#### EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF SR.  
BARBARA DAVIS, SC

##### HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to spotlight a very special lady who has unselfishly given of her time, energy and soul to others in her community. She has earned the honor of being named the 1998 National Catholic Education Association Distinguished Principal for the States of Ohio and Michigan.

She is one of only twelve Catholic School Elementary Principals in the country and the only one from Ohio to be chosen for this honor. The lives of many young people have been deeply touched with the kindness and sincerity that Sister Davis has shown. As principal of St. Mary's School, Shelby, Ohio, she worked to place computers into classrooms so that students will benefit from technological advances such as the Internet and other educational tools.

I extend my best wishes to her as she receives this award, and I urge her to keep up the good work. She truly is a remarkable teacher and role model. Thank you Sister Davis.

#### TRIBUTE TO MAJ. GEN. DOUG BUNGER

##### HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Major General Doug Bunker, who currently resides in Duncanville, Texas, upon his retirement this month from the United States Air Force. In his thirty-one years of service to this great nation he has proven himself an extraordinary leader of people, programs, and finances at all organizational levels in the Air Force, and finances at all organizational levels in the Air Force. As a military comptroller, General Bunker directed the financial operation for military airlift command during a period of intense defense military transportation requirements. He subsequently was the Air Force's Director of Budget Operations and then the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the budget. As such he developed, justified, and executed an annual budget of over \$72 billion in support of worldwide air force operations. His record of integrity and accountability was flawless.

To conclude his distinguished career, General Bunker has commanded the Army and the Air Force Exchange Service, a \$7 billion retail and services organization headquartered in Southwest Dallas. Under his charismatic leadership and efficient management AAFES has performed its mission exceptionally well, with earnings during his three-year tenure of over \$930 million. What is more important is that these earnings have been vital to military personnel around the world, contributing well over \$600 million to supplement the morale, welfare, and recreation programs of the Army

*March 3, 1998*

and Air Force—thereby ensuring quality of life for service members and their families while reducing the burden of support from America's taxpayers. General Bunker's work force of 55,000 serve every day to provide soldiers and airmen value, service and support in all 50 states and 25 different countries—to include Bosnia, Haiti, Kuwait, Saudi, and Korea—significantly enhancing morale while saving them money.

Throughout his career, General Bunker has been an exceptional steward of defense resources, and his legacy of leadership and dedication deserve our admiration and praise. His numerous awards and decorations—which include the Distinguished Service Medal, two Awards of the Legion of Merit, a Bronze Star, four Meritorious Service Medals, and both Air Force Commendation and Achievement Medals—attest to his exemplary professionalism and distinguished service to our nation.

I salute Major General Doug Bunker as he retires from the United States Air Force and wish him and his lovely wife, Sarah, much happiness in their new hilltop home near Hot Springs, Arkansas.

#### LET CONSUMERS CHOOSE

##### HON. BILL PAXON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Mr. PAXON. Mr. Speaker, during the arduous legislative process that created the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the Members of the Commerce Committee used the basic principle of consumer choice as our guide.

Today, responsibility for implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 rests with the FCC, and I am left to wonder if the same principles that guided Congress' creation of the Telecommunications Act, are guiding the FCC in their implementation of the Act.

When the Federal Communications Commission turned down yet another State Commission's request that the local Bell company be allowed to offer long-distance, the FCC essentially said that local phone customers cannot be trusted to make wise choices. The FCC said that, if we let them, the residents of Oklahoma, Michigan, South Carolina, or Louisiana, for example, might make what the FCC thinks is the wrong decision.

In passing the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Congress wanted competition to begin in the telephone services marketplace. It's time to get all parties moving in that direction.

The free enterprise system is built on the belief that American consumers are best capable of making consumer decisions—that they can decide what is good for them a lot better than a Washington bureaucracy.

#### TRIBUTE TO JAMES CARROLL PLACE

##### HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a wonderful man. The kind of

man that made this country the great nation it is today. I honor James Carroll Place as he should be honored.

Mr. Jim was one of those pillars of the community that worked hard every day, played by the rules and did what ever was necessary to make himself and his community successful. At the same time he always upheld the highest standards of conduct and integrity.

His tireless work for the community to build the wonderful event that we celebrate annually in my hometown, The Coon Supper, will be long remembered.

We should all hope that his example of high standards and good conduct will be followed by the generations to come. It made no difference if it was for the church, the town, the Farmers and Businessmen's Club, friends, neighbors, or his own family, he gave his all and his best and expected no less from us all.

He was a friend and mentor to me and was a business associate for many years. We never had a dispute. His sense of fairness and honesty was exceeded only by his great good humor. He was a friend, role model, farmer, leader, father, and Christian.

Some say that the measure of success of a man is his children. If so, then Mr. Jim was successful by all standards.

He will be long remembered as the standard for, as we say in my hometown of Gillett, Arkansas, a good man.

Let us today honor this good man and the standard he set for us all.

#### SALUTING GUAM POWER AUTHORITY

#### HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, It has been more than ten weeks since typhoon Paka struck Guam, causing nearly \$400 million in damage and leaving more than 4,000 families homeless. The damage is still evident in some areas, but typhoon debris is steadily disappearing and the island is turning green again. For the most part, conditions are returning to normal, although life remains difficult for those who lost everything. But even for those enduring folks, things are improving day by day. Despite the many discomforts we continue to bear, we remain tremendously grateful that no lives were lost in this disaster. On February 16, we marked another reason for gratitude and appreciation. Just two months to the day of Paka's passing, Guam's electrical power system was fully restored.

The speed of this particular recovery is unprecedented in the annals of Guam's typhoon-prone history. It is a testament to the determination and dedication of the staff and management of the Guam Power Authority and the dozens of line crews from off-island who rushed to Guam's aid.

As in previous typhoons, Guam Power Authority crews were positioned and ready to battle the elements in order to keep the island's power system up and running. But Typhoon Paka was not a typical storm. As winds grew in intensity, and conditions grew increas-

ingly more dangerous, the GPA crews were forced to ride out the storm at their respective worksites until the all-clear signal. The task that faced them the next morning was gargantuan. Power lines were dangling in the streets, in parking lots and in people's yards all over the island. They were tangled in wreckage and lying in broken pieces across roadways and along roadsides. Hundreds of transformers and thousands of street lights were ripped from their perches and scattered everywhere. Many were smashed beyond repair. Throughout the island wooden and concrete power poles broken, bent, tipped and even uprooted.

After assessing the damage, GPA announced that it would take at least three months or longer to restore service islandwide. The lengthy repair time was disheartening but not unreasonable given the immensity of the task. With Christmas around the corner, the sadness and disappointment in the faces of the people of Guam must have inspired the men and women of the Guam Power Authority to rise to the challenge. Instead of three months, GPA set an ambitious new goal of eight weeks.

With help from as far away as Hawaii and California, and from as close as the Northern Marianas, Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia, the Guam Power Authority worked long and hard to make Guam's holiday season as bright with light as possible. The Air Force also came to Guam's rescue with military line crews, heavy equipment and supplies, as well as providing nine C-5 flights to transport these and other personnel and materials to Guam. Our neighbors in the region also sent barges loaded with wooden and concrete poles, as well as transformers, electrical wire and other electrical supplies. All in all, 95 line personnel, 34 bucket trucks and 63 auxiliary line vehicles were brought in to augment GPA's equipment and 200 line personnel and 100 contractor crews. Priority was given to Guam's pumps and water wells, and running water was restored within days of the storm's passing. In the days that followed, GPA replaced nearly 700 transformers, nearly 100 concrete poles and some 800 wooden poles. Crews also re-strung hundreds of miles of primary and secondary electrical lines. At this time, GPA is concentrating on replacing nearly 3,000 street lights island wide and reconnecting residential power as homes are repaired.

In the ten weeks since the storm, the line crews have been most visible to the public. They and their heavy equipment have been seen all over the island, working around the clock to restore the system. GPA General Manager Ricardo Unpingco also did a commendable job of keeping the public informed, delivering daily progress reports and fielding questions from the public via the news media. But Mr. Unpingco and the line crews were not alone in this massive and ambitious endeavor. Behind the scenes, many other employees of GPA worked just as long, just as hard, often attending to tasks that were not in their job descriptions, to support the restoration work. Lastly, the biggest, most understanding and most loyal supporters of GPA's restoration work have been the families—the wives, husbands, sons, daughters and loved ones of GPA employees, many of whom were also typhoon damage victims.

I rise today on behalf of the people of Guam to commend and to thank all the men and women of the Guam Power Authority, the personnel from the Saipan Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Belau Public Utilities, Yap State Public Services Corporation, Pohnpei Utilities Commission, Hawaiian Electric Company, Southern California Edison, and the United States Air Force, and especially the families of all these fine people, for all the efforts and sacrifices they made to restore electrical power to Guam. Si Yu'os ma'ase hamyu todos; si Yu'os en fanbendisi.

#### CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS

#### HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, the City of Los Angeles has designated the week of March 1, 1998 as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Week." In honor of this proclamation, I ask my colleagues to join me in calling attention to the tragedy of childhood cancer and in working to defeat this debilitating enemy of our children.

Cancer is the leading cause of death in the United States today. Each year, approximately 10,000 American children are diagnosed with cancer. Moreover, it is the leading cause of death by disease among children in our country. While great strides are made each year in research, treatment, and prevention of childhood cancer, we must remain vigilant in our efforts to search for cures and more effective treatments.

I ask my colleagues to reaffirm their dedication to eliminating childhood cancer and to take a moment to express their appreciation to the devoted individuals working in the fight against this dreaded disease.

#### HONORING SALINE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WINNERS

#### HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say a few words about a group of constituents in Saline, Michigan whose contributions to their community merit respect and recognition.

Tom Kirvan is managing editor of the Reporter newspapers. His friends and colleagues have named him their Citizen of the Year for his tireless work on behalf of others. Through his involvement with Big Brothers/Big Sisters or the Council on Alcoholism, Tom has been in every way a true public servant.

Rick Kuss is Saline's mayor and is well-known for his work on historic preservation and his efforts to improve Saline. Rick is a person with a great sense of community. The Chamber has rightly recognized his contributions by awarding him the Georgia A. Anderson Vision Award.

Dale Rothfuss is a recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Saline Chamber.



A retiree, Dale has spent his free time helping others at the area Senior Center, the American Legion, and Saline Community Hospital.

Joann Steiner has also been awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award. A dedicated public servant, Joann has served the Department of Public Works for 35 years. I am proud to join the Chamber in commending her achievements.

Mr. Speaker, in my opinion, one of the hallmarks of good citizenship is the willingness to take of your own time to devote to others. I therefore think it fitting that we recognize these four people for their significant achievements.

#### THE AVENUE OF THE PINES

#### HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, one of the most attractive streets in New York State will soon be a virtual monument to the work of one of the state's finest companies, Finch, Pruyn & Company, Inc. It's not only one of the most famous tree-lined avenues in the Capital District, but in my opinion one of the most beautiful in the country. It's the Avenue of the Pines in the Saratoga Spa State Park.

My primary district office is in Saratoga Springs and I always look for an excuse to take Avenue of the Pines whenever I visit a neighboring community. That's why I'm glad to see that the avenue's priceless stand of more than 150 white and red pines is getting such attention from a company well-qualified to render it.

Finch, Pruyn & Company has long been an outstanding corporate neighbor in my hometown of Glens Falls. Its president and CEO, Dick Carota, is a real up-from-the-ranks kind of guy who knows every job description in the company from personal experience. He's a real All-American success story, and Finch, Pruyn is an All-American kind of company, providing not only employment, but a nicer place to live for everybody.

In addition to being a giant in the paper industry, Finch, Pruyn directs a nationally-recognized forest management program. In partnership with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the company will do borings near the site to determine the age of the trees. Finch, Pruyn will then conduct further research on the effects of vehicular traffic, snow and ice maintenance practices, road salt, wildlife, pests, and diseases.

Four rows of trees were first planted in 1912. Six years later, the walkway was widened and paved for use by vehicles. There have been some modifications since then, but the avenue remains what it always was, one of the most enjoyable stretches of driving in the entire country.

Mr. Speaker, Finch, Pruyn's scientists are the best, and the people of our district can be sure the study will be as thorough as it is interesting. Finch, Pruyn was a pioneer in the field of sustainable forestry as far back as the last century, and later hired the country's best professional foresters. The company is equally

advanced in protecting the environment. The company has invested more than \$100 million in the last three decades, including \$10 million in a new elemental chlorine-free pulp bleaching system.

Mr. Speaker, my friend Dick Carota, Finch, Pruyn's president and CEO, likes to do a little play on words, attributing the company's success to what he calls "Finch Pride."

He and every last employee have a right to be proud. So am I, and so is an entire community. I invite you, Mr. Speaker, and every member of this body to come on up and visit us any time, to see community and corporate cooperation at its finest.

#### A DEAL THAT'S WORSE THAN WORTHLESS

#### HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend a recent column by Charles Krauthammer of the Washington Post to the attention of my colleagues.

[From the Washington Post, Feb. 27, 1998]

A DEAL THAT'S WORSE THAN WORTHLESS

PEACE IN OUR TIME—AGAIN

Two days before Kofi Annan made his "breakthrough" in Baghdad, the U.N. Security Council, with U.S. approval, authorized a huge increase in the amount of oil that Iraq can sell. In a stroke, this "humanitarian" gesture doubled Iraq's oil income to \$10.5 billion a year. Iraq can now sell nearly 2 million barrels a day—about two-thirds of the oil it was selling when producing at peak capacity before the embargo. And that number does not even count the oil that we know Saddam is illegally smuggling through Iranian coastal waters.

At this U.N.- and U.S.-authorized level, Iraq—under sanctions!—becomes the eighth-largest oil exporter in the world.

This embargo-buster passed with little fanfare. It barely made the back pages of the newspapers. All hands pretended, moreover, that there was no linkage between this bonanza and the subsequent Saddam-Annan deal in Baghdad.

But remember that last November, when the administration was desperately looking for a way out of the last Iraq crisis, the State Department said we'd be willing to offer Saddam a "carrot" to get him to be nice. Such as? Such as a sharp increase in the amount of "humanitarian" oil that Iraq could sell.

So last time, when Saddam broke the Gulf War agreements and kicked out U.S. arms inspectors, the carrot was offered. This time, when Saddam broke the Gulf War agreements and stymied all the arms inspectors, the carrot was delivered.

Last time, President Clinton flapped about threateningly, then watched meekly as the Russian foreign minister brokered a "compromise." This time, Clinton flapped about threateningly, then watched meekly as the U.N. secretary general brokered a new "compromise."

Last time, Clinton's U.N. ambassador crowed that Saddam had "blinked." This time, Madeleine Albright's spokesman deemed the deal "win-win" for us.

Last time, the deal turned out to be completely worthless, giving Saddam four more

months to hide his nasty stuff. This time, the deal is worse than worthless, giving Saddam crucial victories on the two issues he cares most about: economic sanctions and weapons inspections.

1. Sanctions. Not only did Saddam incur no penalty for his open defiance of the United Nations and open provocation of the United States, he was treated by Annan with a deference and flattery that bordered on the indecent. Moreover, the Annan-Saddam Memorandum of Understanding breathes not a word of criticism about Iraq's violating previous agreements, nor about its creating this crisis. On the contrary, Annan trashed his own arms inspectors (UNSCOM) as unruly "cowboys" and undertook, in writing, to bring Saddam's ultimate objective, the lifting of sanctions, "to the full attention of the members of the Security Council."

Sure enough, upon his return to New York, Annan began emphasizing the need to show Iraq "the light at the end of the tunnel," the Iraqi code phrase for ending sanctions. Like Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, who brokered the first nonagreement in November, Annan has become Saddam's sanctions-lifting advocate to the world. Unlike Saddam buddy and ex-KGB biggie Primakov, however, Annan is an effective shill.

2. Inspections. The United States had demanded no retreat from free and full access and no tampering by Iraq with the composition and authority of UNSCOM teams. Annan came back with a radical change in the composition of the inspection teams and a serious erosion of their authority. Inspection of "presidential sites," those huge complexes with hundreds of buildings where Saddam could be hiding anything, is taken away from control of UNSCOM, the tough inspectors whose probity we can rely on.

These sites are instead entrusted to a new body, headed by an Annan appointee. It will comprise political appointees, including diplomat-spies from Iraq-friendly France, Russia and China, as well as inspectors who presumably possess the requisite delicacy and sensitivity to Iraqi feelings. Iraqis can be so touchy about their stores of poison gas and anthrax.

How do you carry out a spot inspection—the only kind that has any hope of finding anything—when you first have to notify and await the arrival of, say, the Russian appointee, who has a hot line to the very Iraqi regime he is supposed to inspect? Inspector Clouseau has a better chance of finding concealed nerve gas than this polyglot outfit of compromised politicians and handpicked inspectors.

So tote it up. For Saddam: No penalty. Annan shilling for his demand to end all sanctions. UNSCOM undermined. Presidential palaces secure for storing anthrax and such. And his oil output doubled.

Another triumph of Clinton diplomacy.

#### 1998 CONGRESSIONAL OBSERVANCE OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

#### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 11, 1998*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate African American History Month, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the 86

African American recipients of the nation's highest military award for valor, the Medal of Honor. These medals of Honor were awarded for acts of bravery performed from the Civil War through the Vietnam Era.

Last year the President took steps to right a serious wrong, by acknowledging that not one Medal of Honor was awarded to an African American during World War II due to discrimination and other factors. On January 13, 1997 the President awarded the Medal of Honor to seven World War II African American heroes. The Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen also hosted a Pentagon ceremony on February 19, 1997 and paid tribute to the three surviving African American recipients of the Medal of Honor. During the ceremony the "Legacy of Valor" videotape tribute was presented, followed by the unveiling of an exhibit honoring the 86 African American recipients.

I find the following words, as contained in the Department of Defense "Legacy of Valor" tribute to be of particular significance:

"Eighty-six African Americans have earned the Nation's top award for valor, the Medal of Honor. Their legacy of valor is the thrilling story of African Americans in defense of freedom and justice. The stories of these 86 Medal of Honor recipients account for some of the most astonishing acts of bravery and personal sacrifice in the history of our armed forces. Through it all, despite an American legacy rooted deeply in slavery, each and everyone of them, by supreme sacrifice and devotion to duty, in the words of the great African American poet, Langston Hughes, boldly declared, 'I too am American.'"

They demonstrated that African Americans have earned the right through military sacrifice and achievement alone, to be true Americans economically, politically, and socially. All Americans can take heartfelt pride in this illustrious record which, unfortunately, too frequently has gone unnoticed.

Although 86 African Americans received the Medal of Honor in military conflicts from the Civil War to Vietnam, due to discrimination and other factors, not one was awarded the Medal of Honor during World Wars I and II.

In 1991, however, President George Bush awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously to a World War I African American hero.

Additionally, on January 13, 1997, at a White House ceremony, President William Jefferson Clinton awarded seven Medals of Honor to African American WWII heroes. Six of those medals were awarded posthumously to the families of the honorees and the seventh Medal of Honor was presented to the only living WWII honoree.

All Americans owe a special debt of gratitude to these 86 African American heroes. Despite slavery, segregation, discrimination, and bitter disappointment they defended America with their very lives. When the chips were down, to paraphrase the incomparable General Douglas MacArthur, they understood the hallowed words, "Duty, Honor, Country, Freedom and Justice." These words were their rallying point to build courage when courage seemed to fail; to regain faith, when there seemed to be little cause for faith; to create hope when hope became forlorn. These words taught them not to substitute words for action nor to seek the path of comfort but to face the

stress and sharp spur of difficulty head-on; to learn to stand up in the storm, but have compassion for those who fall; to reach into the future, yet never neglect the past. In their belief in God and family, in their strength, in their love and loyalty, many of them gave all that mortals can give.

"Oh beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain, for purple mountains majesties, above the fruited plains . . ." The wonderful song "America the Beautiful" begins. But as we look back over the valorous contributions of African Americans, it is the second stanza of America the Beautiful that all Americans can sing, with new meaning: "Oh beautiful, Oh beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife, who more than self their country loved and mercy more than life . . ."

For these are truly 86 African American heroes who proved in liberating strife on domestic and foreign soil that they loved their country more than themselves and mercy for their people more than life!"

#### AFRICAN AMERICAN MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

##### VIETNAM (1964-1973)

\*ANDERSON, James, Jr.  
ANDERSON, Webster  
\*ASHLEY, Eugene, Jr.  
\*AUSTIN, Oscar P.  
\*BRYANT, William Maud  
\*DAVIS, Rodney Maxwell  
\*JENKINS, Robert H., Jr.  
JOEL, Lawrence  
JOHNSON, Dwight  
\*JOHNSON, Ralph  
\*LANGHORN, Garfield M.  
\*LEONARD, Matthew  
\*LONG, Donald Russell  
\*OLIVE, Milton Lee, III  
\*PITTS, Riley L.  
ROGERS, Charles Calvin  
\*SARGENT, Ruppert L.  
SASSER, Clarence Eugene  
\*SIMS, Clifford Chester  
\*WARREN, John E., Jr.

##### KOREAN WAR (1950-1953)

\*CHARLTON, Cornelius H.  
\*THOMPSON, William

##### WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

BAKER, Vernon J.  
CARTER, Edward A., Jr.  
\*FOX, John R.  
\*JAMES, Willy F., Jr.  
\*RIVERS, Ruben  
THOMAS, Charles L.  
\*WATSON, George

##### WORLD WAR I (1917-1918)

\*STOWERS, Freddie

##### WAR WITH SPAIN (1898)

BAKER, Edward L., Jr.  
BELL, Dennis  
LEE, Fitz  
PENN, Robert  
THOMPSON, William H.  
WANTON, George H.

##### INTERIM (1871-1898)

ATKINS, Daniel  
DAVIS, John  
GIRANDY, Alphonse  
JOHNSON, John  
JOHNSON, William  
NOIL, Joseph B.  
SMITH, John  
SWEENEY, Robert Augustus (1 of 20 double recipients)

##### INDIAN CAMPAIGNS (1861-1898)

BOYNE, Thomas

BROWN, Benjamin  
DENNY, John  
FACTOR, Pompey (Black/Seminole; also used last name of Facton)  
GREAVES, Clinton  
JOHNSON, Henry  
JORDAN, George  
MAYS, Isalah  
McBRYAR, William  
PAINE, Adam (Black/Seminole)  
PAYNE, Isaac (Black/Seminole)  
SHAW, Thomas  
STANCE, Emanuel  
WALLEY, Augustus  
WARD, John (Black/Seminole)  
WILLIAMS, Moses  
WILSON, William  
WOODS, Brent

##### CIVIL WAR (1861-1865)

ANDERSON, Aaron (a.k.a. Sanderson)  
ANDERSON, Bruce  
BARNES, William H.  
BEATY, Powhatan  
BLAKE, Robert (Escaped slave)  
BRONSON, James H.  
BROWN, William H.  
BROWN, Wilson  
CARNEY, William Harvey  
DORSEY, Decatur (Escaped slave)  
FLEETWOOD, Christian A.  
GARDINER, James  
HARRIS, James H.  
HAWKINS, Thomas R.  
HILTON, Alfred B.  
HOLLAND, Milton Murray  
JAMES, Miles  
KELLY, Alexander  
LAWSON, John  
MIFFLIN, James  
PEASE, Joachim  
PINN, Robert  
RATCLIFF, Edward  
VEAL, Charles

#### AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Vietnam .....	20
Korea .....	2
World War II .....	7
World War I .....	1
War with Spain .....	6
Interim 1871-1898 .....	8
Indian Campaigns .....	18
Civil War .....	24
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>86</b>

\* The asterisk denotes killed in action. This information provided by the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

#### THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA BANK FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (MENA BANK)

#### HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that efforts at regional economic integration, an important part of the Middle East peace process, have fallen by the wayside. The Middle East and North Africa Bank for Economic Cooperation and Development (MENA Bank) is an important U.S.-sponsored initiative to foster regional economic integration, and that Bank has yet to begin operations. A key part of the problem is that the United States has yet to provide funding to



capitalize that Bank, and so other Members of the Bank have also been reluctant to provide funding. On December 23, 1997 I wrote to Secretary Albright concerning United States support and funding for the MENA Bank, and on February 4, 1998 I received a reply. The text of the correspondence follows:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS

Washington, DC, December 23, 1997.

HON. MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT,  
Secretary of State, Department of State,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADELEINE: I write to state my strong support for U.S. funding for the Bank for Economic Cooperation and Development in the Middle East and North Africa (MENABANK).

It is a source of concern to me that Congress so far has failed to provide for the U.S. share of MENABANK capital contributions. As a result, it has been difficult for the United States to provide the needed leadership to make the bank a reality, and this entire effort to enhance and backstop the peace process has floundered. Unfortunately, little progress has been made over the past two years toward establishment of the MENABANK, and it is still far away from beginning operations.

I am convinced that this Bank can fulfill a very important role in support of the Middle East peace process. Its intended emphasis on privatization and regional cooperation is exactly the focus needed to promote peace and economic growth to bolster the peace process.

It is my understanding that some in Congress are reluctant to provide funds for this initiative, in addition to funds otherwise available for the Middle East. As you put together the Fiscal Year 1999 budget request, I would urge you to give priority to the MENABANK, even if it is at the expense of other Middle East priorities in the International Affairs budget account.

At a time when some key aspects of the Middle East peace process are so troubled, I believe it is especially important to the U.S. national interest to foster regional economic progress, and to foster hope. The MENABANK can do both. I want to be helpful to you in any way I can in support of U.S. funding and the Bank's early establishment.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

LEE H. HAMILTON,  
Ranking Democratic Member.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. HAMILTON: Thank you for your letter of December 23, 1997, to Secretary Albright concerning United States funding for the Bank for Economic Cooperation and Development in the Middle East and North Africa (MENABANK). We appreciate your support and that of others on the Hill for this important peace process institution.

The Administration shares your view that the MENABANK will play a seminal role in building stability in the Middle East through facilitating stronger regional economic ties. As you know, the MENABANK is a product of an historic joint proposal made in October 1994 by the four core parties to the peace process: Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians. In cooperation with the regional parties, the United States has spearheaded the effort to bring the Bank into being.

Perhaps the best ongoing example of our commitment is our support of the multi-

national transition team in Cairo, headed by former United States Ambassador David Dunford, which is charged with setting up the Bank's structure. Already, the team, which includes professional staff members from Israel, Egypt, the United States, Japan, Italy, the Netherlands, and Canada, has developed a set of draft financial and operational plans and an illustrative list of projects, which should enable the Bank to be launched promptly once two-thirds of its initial capital is committed by its members.

The Middle East currently receives only one percent of global foreign direct investment. The region will need investment of approximately \$500 billion over the next ten years to stimulate sustainable economic growth. The Bank's focus on projects with a regional character and the ability to use its \$5 billion capital base to leverage significantly greater flows of private resources is crucial in ensuring the growth needed in the region. Only with such growth can we hope to realize and sustain a more stable and prosperous Middle East. In addition, the Bank will help ensure that qualified individuals, often trained in the United States, will remain in the region and contribute to its growth.

We look forward to working closely with you and your staff in our continuing efforts to gather support for the MENABANK. Thank you again for your help with this critical initiative.

Sincerely,

BARBARA LARKIN,  
Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs.

#### NOTES ON H.R. 856

#### HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, before this House votes on H.R. 856, I want to inform my colleagues of a very recent development concerning one of the status options.

One of the most controversial issues in this legislation is the exclusion of an autonomy option that satisfies Puerto Ricans and that complies with the strict criteria of constitutional constraints and public policy imperatives.

Under H.R. 856, Puerto Ricans that do not favor either independence or statehood are forced to opt from the equally undesired extremes of plenary territorial subordination or a free association formula that is really so undefined that it is practically indistinguishable from full independence.

We must offer the people of Puerto Rico fair and realistic options that are clearly and fully defined. That being the case, I want to bring to the attention of this House a proposal that has recently been circulated in Washington and Puerto Rico.

This proposal calls for the development of the present status into a relationship of autonomy within the context of a Treaty of Union between Puerto Rico and the United States. It has been suggested by former Puerto Rico Senate and Popular Democratic Party President, Miguel Hernández Agosto. Many of you may know Senator Hernández Agosto as the person in charge of the pro-commonwealth party during the 1993 plebiscite which they won.

The Treaty of Union proposal has been endorsed or welcomed in Puerto Rico by prominent pro-commonwealth leaders like the Mayors of Ponce, Carolina, Caguas, San Juan and various other civic groups and legislators.

This proposal represents a fresh approach in the attempt to develop commonwealth into a fuller measure of self-government that is compatible with continued ties to the U.S.

This association would operate under a nation-to-nation agreement that will encapsulate, among others, the defense, common market, citizenship and currency provisions that are so relevant to both the U.S. and Puerto Rico. It also permits Puerto Rico to retain and affirm its distinct culture and linguistic identity.

I sincerely hope that if discussion on political status moves forward, Congress will have the opportunity to properly and seriously analyze this deserving and innovative approach.

#### AMENDMENT #4

#### (Autonomy Definition)

P. 12, Sec. 4: Strike out completely page 12 and in lieu thereof insert the following: A. Autonomy—if you agree, mark here

The people of Puerto Rico, in the exercise of its natural right, and of its free will as the source of all political power, do hereby establish an autonomous body politic in union with the United States of America under a treaty which cannot be altered unilaterally and subject to the following:

(1) Puerto Rico will control and determine its own nationality and citizenship, provided that the United States citizens born in Puerto Rico will retain such citizenship, unless they voluntarily renounce it, and will be entitled to the same rights and privileges as any other United States citizen.

(2) Puerto Rico will have the authority and responsibility for its internal and external affairs, including, but not limited to, language, olympic and diplomatic representation, customs, enter into agreements to foster its economic development by joining regional and international trade agreements. Puerto Rico may enter into tax-sparring agreements with other nations which may have an effect on its economy similar to the 936 provision of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, recently abolished. The United States will encourage and support the participation of Puerto Rico in such regional and international organizations.

(3) The United States and Puerto Rico will exchange diplomatic representations and will maintain continuous and friendly consultations with the purpose of achieving concerted actions on foreign affairs.

(4) A common market will exist between Puerto Rico and the United States which would permit free flow of persons, goods, and services between both nations.

(5) The United States will maintain its authority and responsibility over defense matters. This would include:

(a) Responsibility for the defense of Puerto Rico and its people in the same manner as to the United States and its people.

(b) The United States, at its option, may deny or limit access of any foreign power of facilities in Puerto Rico.

(c) The United States, at its option, may own and maintain in Puerto Rico the military bases or installations presently operating in Puerto Rico under the terms of specific agreements.

(d) Any Additional needs will be considered and agreed upon on separate and specific accords.

(6) Except for property needed for defense purposes, all other property under Federal

Ownership will be transferred to Puerto Rico.

(7) The official U.S. currency will be the official currency of Puerto Rico and all Federal applicable laws are made part of the compact.

(8) With the purpose of assisting the government of Puerto Rico to promote the economic well being of its people and in recognition of the special present and future relations between Puerto Rico and the United States, the United States will provide a block grant in an amount at least equal to the amounts provided to the government of Puerto Rico. Individuals will maintain federal entitlements such as social security, veterans benefits, and others on the same basis as at present.

(9) Except for currency and defense, federal laws will cease to apply to Puerto Rico, unless otherwise agreed, effective on the date in which this compact becomes effective.

(10) Any dispute as to the interpretation of this compact which cannot be resolved by negotiation between the parties, can be referred by any party to a special Court on the U.S. Puerto Rico Compact, which will be created by separate agreements.

Comments: All the formulas should be free and independent one from the other, and not juxtapositioned one with the other as the case of independence and Free Association. The Free Association alternative should be defined in clearer terms, than what the bill does. If it is carefully studied, you will see that the independence and the statehood definitions, are spelled out, but Autonomy or Free Association is not. As the bill is at this moment, U.S. Citizenship is only featured in the statehood alternative as a way to obtain more votes in the possible Referendum. There is no legal restriction to feature U.S. Citizenship in Autonomy or Free Association; and, additionally, since Puerto Ricans have had the citizenship for the last 80 years and there has been no problems, we believe that the two alternatives should run on an equal footing.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. NANCY DICKEY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to briefly express my congratulations, encouragement and best wishes to Dr. Nancy Dickey of College Station, Texas, who in June, will take office as the first female president of the American Medical Association. The AMA is this country's most active, notable and influential group of physicians, a group that lends its expertise and experience to America's state and federal legislators, as well as our doctors and the families that they care for. I have always said that when shaping public policy dealing with medicine and health care reform, well-intentioned Members of Congress must hear the vital voices of our medical practitioners.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Nancy Dickey has a long history with Congress of lending her expertise and experience to us as we have considered and deliberated on the important health care issues of the day. In addition to giving over 200 speeches addressing women's issues and

encouraging more young women to pursue a career in medicine, she has testified at Congressional hearings at least 10 times.

She has traveled to the nation's capital to speak on the many various issues of health insurance and medical ethics, while maintaining a busy practice as a family physician and program director for the Brazos Valley Family Practice Program at Texas A&M University. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Dickey has displayed conviction and concern for the practicing of medicine, expending tremendous energy on every endeavor she undertakes. That is why I believe it is truly fitting that she will soon be sworn in as president of the AMA, since she will be able to use that energy to lead an organization of more than 700,000 of our country's most gifted and influential doctors.

Dr. Dickey hails from Watertown, South Dakota and is a resident of College Station, but her vision and passion encompass the entire country and reflects her commitment to represent all of America's doctors and address the problems and challenges that both doctors and patients face.

Mr. Speaker, in her youth, she faced the problems and challenges of a time when women were not encouraged to pursue the goal of entering medical school. She was once told by a high school counselor that she could not be both a doctor and a mother. I experienced the same subtle discouragement which actually steered me toward a nursing degree and not into medical school. However, Dr. Dickey chose to ignore the discouragement and focused even more on her goal and task at hand; entering medical school and successfully pursue a career in medicine. Those times for both of us have changed for the better, but she continues today to inspire other young women to enter the field.

Mr. Speaker, as a Registered Nurse who encourages young women to pursue a career in medicine, I am appreciative of Dr. Dickey's efforts in heightening the self-esteem of young women and encouraging them to pursue careers as doctors or any other profession.

Mr. Speaker, I believe her future as president, as well as the AMA's future, will be bright and successful. As she assumes leadership of the AMA, I am convinced that her tenacity, energy, expertise and sincere concern for her profession will benefit that organization, America's doctors and their patients. I congratulate her in advance as she prepares to take office in June, and I wish her the best of luck.

#### ANNETTE LANTOS PAYS TRIBUTE TO RAOUL WALLENBERG

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, Annette Lantos, the wife of our colleague Congressman TOM LANTOS of California has been a leading advocate for the Hungarian Holocaust hero, Raoul Wallenberg. Well before her husband was elected to Congress, Annette had established the International Free Wallenberg Committee to press Soviet authorities to release

the Swedish humanitarian from prison. Much of the credit for bringing the tragic plight of Wallenberg to international and particularly to American consciousness has been the result of her work.

On February 8, Mr. Speaker, Annette Lantos delivered a Tribute to Raoul Wallenberg at a special meeting of the Sydney Australia, chapter of WIZO (Women's International Zionist Organization), the non-party voluntary charitable women's organization which is similar to the organization Hadassah here in the United States.

#### TRIBUTE TO RAOUL WALLENBERG

(By Annette Lantos)

Fifty-four years ago, on March 19, 1944, as the Nazi's campaign of terror and genocide finally overtook our native land of Hungary, a young idealistic Swede made his way to Budapest to interpose his own frail body between the Nazi war machine and the persecuted, unarmed thousands facing deportation and annihilation in Auschwitz.

By the time Raoul Wallenberg arrived to Budapest, 500,000 Jews from the Hungarian countryside had already been taken to Auschwitz where most perished. But Raoul Wallenberg's arrival to Budapest delayed the execution of the death sentence upon the remaining 300,000 Jews of the cities long enough to enable some 100,000 of them—including my husband Tom and myself—to survive. It is on their behalf, and behalf of their children and their grandchildren that my husband, Tom, and I have dedicated many years of our lives to make Wallenberg's story known, and to honor this great man.

When I began my work for Wallenberg in 1975, I had two goals in mind. First and foremost, I wanted to free him from the horrors of the Gulag where he was languishing—by that time for over 30 years. The second goal was to make Raoul Wallenberg's life and accomplishments penetrate the consciousness of mankind and to inspire all those who are touched by his story to become better, more unselfish, more caring human beings, willing to transcend the barriers of race, religion, or nationality in their concern for others.

Raoul Wallenberg taught us two major things. First, he taught us that a single individual committed to a noble goal can achieve miracles. Second, he taught us that human rights are indivisible, that it is not enough just to be concerned simply with our own human rights.

As Jews or Catholics, Australians of Hungarians or Americans, the only relevant concern for human rights that deserves respect is a concern that transcends religion and race and color and national origin. Raoul Wallenberg did not go to Budapest in 1944 to save Lutheran Swedes. He went there to save Hungarian Jews, with whom he had nothing in common except his common humanity. Raoul Wallenberg not only fought evil, but he also fought indifference, and indifference is the twin of evil. Those who kill are murderers, but those who stand by and do nothing in the face of murder share a complicity in crime. Wallenberg's message was loud and clear. We must fight evil, but just as hard we must fight indifference.

Most of you have heard the story of Wallenberg. He started out issuing Swedish passports to all who managed to reach him at the Swedish legation in Budapest. He brilliantly negotiated with the Nazis and later the Arrow Cross gangsters (Hungarian Fascists) who ran Hungary in the final few months of the German occupation, until they recognized the validity of these fictional documents and exempted their owners



from deportation and having to wear the yellow star.

He bought or leased 32 large apartment houses and succeeded in declaring them Swedish territory in Hungary. Thousands of people were crowded into these protected houses, many of whom he brought back personally from the forced marches heading toward the death camps. He rushed the saved persons to the protected Swedish houses in Budapest. He even brought people back from the railroad cars, pulling them out of deportation trains, and from the banks of the Danube river. He interposed his own body between the fallen victims and the machine guns that were leveled at them by the Arrow Cross guards.

When the Russians finally liberated Budapest in January 1945, he believed he was finally safe, and went to their headquarters to report and ask for food and medicine for the surviving victims. The Soviets didn't believe his story. They were convinced that he was an American spy. They kidnaped him on January 17, 1945, and he languished in the Soviet Gulag until 1981, when I personally believe that he finally died still in a Soviet prison.

Even today, people ask me whether I think Raoul Wallenberg still lives. I personally do not believe that he is physically alive anymore, but I do believe that in the spiritual sense Wallenberg is more alive than most of us who are still around living our ordinary, day-to-day lives.

He is more alive than most of us, because of what he has done. He not only saved lives, but he saved our faith in humanity. He continues every day to touch the lives of thousands of young people the world over, who, hearing or reading his story, testify that they have been inspired to become better human beings and to dedicate themselves to fight for the right of others who are still persecuted and oppressed all over the world.

I would like to share with you tonight the writing of one of these young people who has been inspired by Wallenberg. The letter I am about to read to you was written by my granddaughter Chelsea Swett at age 10, on the occasion of the dedication of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. This truly magnificent museum, a considerable portion of which was paid for by successful Holocaust survivors in America, is not only a memorial to honor those who were consumed in the flames of the Holocaust, but it is intended as a warning to future generations of Americans of the consequences of unbridled racism, religious intolerance and national hatreds.

The exhibits at the Holocaust Museum not only highlight the brutality and callous disregard for human life, but they also reflect the occasional heroic willingness of non-Jews to risk their lives in order to save another fellow human being. I am also very grateful that we succeeded in passing an Act of Congress to rename the street upon which the U.S. Holocaust Museum is located as Raoul Wallenberg Place.

It is most significant that in addition to the permanent exhibition at the museum there is a special exhibit entitled "Remember the Children," which commemorates the more than one million children who died in the Holocaust. This special exhibit also provides a presentation aimed at children so that they can understand the experience of children who suffered in the Holocaust. It is in connection with the special exhibit "Remember the Children" on the occasion of the dedication of the U.S. Holocaust Museum that my granddaughter Chelsea read the following letter:

DEAR MR. RAOUL WALLENBERG: I have wanted to write you a letter for a long time. My grandparents told about you all the time. They tell me stories about how you saved hundreds of thousands of people in Hungary from the Nazis and their concentration camps.

You are a hero. Sometimes I think and wonder what happened to you. Grandfather says that it has been almost fifty years since anyone has heard from you. Still, no one can forget what you did and how brave you were.

My grandparents told me that you were very shy and modest. I can't believe that you were ever shy. My grandparents have told me how tough and strong you were against the Nazis. They said that, representing Sweden, you would walk up to people on their way to the camps and with a handful of fake passports, you would hand them out and say, "Of course you're Swedish. Here's your passport," and you'd take them away to safety. You had houses where you would hide these people and they were safe because you flew the Swedish flag over the homes. My grandparents said that you even went onto the death trains and pulled people into safety. Most of all you are my hero because you saved my grandparents. You gave my grandfather a passport so he could escape the Nazis in Hungary. My grandfather is now a Congressman in the United States and he will never forget what you did for him and thousands of others. He worked to pass a law in Congress saying that you are an honorary citizen of the United States. My grandmother also escaped from Hungary with a Portuguese passport. She, along with my mom, organized a committee to find you after you disappeared. After a long time of looking hard, they still could not find you.

That is why you are a hero to me. That is why you are a hero to so many others. You stood up to the Nazis and did what was right. You saved thousands of lives because you were brave and courageous. Now, a museum for the Holocaust is being dedicated in Washington, DC and it is on a street named for you, Raoul Wallenberg Drive.

There are so many of us who owe so much to you. For all of us, I say thank you for all you did. Thank you.

Your friend,

*Chelsea Swett*

Some rescuers risked their lives for an hour, some for the duration of the war. Some save one life, others saved thousands. What all the rescuers have in common, and what their message and legacy is to all of us was their inability to avert their eyes to the tragedy of others.

Tom and I have tried personally to carry on this legacy of Wallenberg through the creation of an organization called the Congressional Human Rights Caucus. It is a totally non-partisan organization. Democrats and Republicans work shoulder to shoulder to accomplish its purposes. It has one single goal, to make Wallenberg's message a reality globally. The congressional Human Rights Caucus fights for human rights, wherever human rights are abused.

We try to implement daily Wallenberg's message that human rights are indivisible. We fight for the right of Christians to practice their religion in China and Africa; we fight for the Jews in Syria; we fight for the rights of Tibetans to retain their culture and religion in Tibet; we fought for the rights of ethnic Hungarians in Transylvania; we fight for the Ba'hai in Iran so that the Ayatollah cannot succeed in crushing that peaceful, gentle people.

It is not an accident that in the entire history of the United States that the two men

have been honored by the U.S. Congress with honorary American Citizenship—Sir Winston Churchill and Raoul Wallenberg. These two men represent the two great ideals of our century. Churchill, the champion of freedom and democracy, and Wallenberg, the champion of human rights.

I suspect that as time goes on the scope, the heroism and the depth of these two giants will increasingly penetrate the world, and future generations will see their timeless ideals fulfilled in their own lives. Long after all of us here in this room are gone, long after the sound and fury of this twentieth century have been relegated to the garbage heaps of history, the ideals and the memory of Raoul Wallenberg will live on. He will live on to teach future generations what I think is the single most important lesson of human history—that in order to survive, in order to create more livable condition in this world, we must accept the responsibility of becoming our brothers' and our sisters' keepers. This is the meaning of Wallenberg's legacy, and this is the meaning of our struggle for human rights across the globe.

#### TRIBUTE TO ANNA DEMARTINO

#### HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate and honor Anna DeMartino of Melverne, New York who received The 1998 Prudential Spirit of Community Award. Anna attained her exemplary recognition for her fundraising campaign at school for a family affected by domestic violence. With the money raised, Anna purchased winter gloves, hats, toys and stuffed animals, and wrapped them herself. She delivered the goods to a local domestic violence coalition who, in turn, distributed the contributions to a family adversely touched by domestic violence.

Despite statistics that indicate Americans are less involved in their communities now than previously, it is vital we encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions such as Anna DeMartino. We must all think how we can ensure the health and vitality of our communities. Young volunteers like Anna provide inspiring examples.

Anna DeMartino should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I heartily applaud Anna for her selfless initiative and contribution to the community. She demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Anna demonstrates that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

## PRESIDENT CLINTON'S OBJECTION TO THE TAX CODE SUNSET

### HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday President Clinton announced his objection to Congress' proposal to terminate the tax code by the end of the year 2001. I would like to take this opportunity to voice my disappointment in the President's decision to reject our legislation.

The tax code represents governmental arrogance at its highest level—in punishes the right things and rewards the wrong things. We need to enact tax reform and put more money back into the hands of taxpayers.

Improving the quality of life in America begins with letting families keep more of what they earn. In the last half-century alone, the federal government's take from families has skyrocketed from only five percent to over twenty-four. Add taxes at the state and local level, and nearly half a family's take home pay is spent just to keep government bureaucracies running. Mr. Speaker, lowering taxes returns power to where it rightfully belongs—out of the hands of government and into the homes of families.

In his decision to object to the solution that we put on the table, President Clinton defended the status quo, a 10,000 page tax code that few can decipher and many agree is unfair. This code must be replaced, and setting a deadline on the current system is the right place to start. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to stand strong in the wake of the President's objection to our plan to sunset the tax code.

## ASIAN AMERICANS—A STRENGTH FOR AMERICA

### HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my disapproval with the unfair and inaccurate references and implications that certain politicians and members of the media have made regarding the Asian-American community's involvement in our political system. Specifically, I take issue with the manner in which some elected officials and members of the press have created a climate of suspicion surrounding the role that Asian-Americans played during the 1996 election cycle.

As an elected official, I am troubled by the reports of potentially unlawful fundraising activities that may have been conducted during the 1996 presidential campaign. Congress must thoroughly review the allegations that have surfaced concerning the alleged fundraising violations, but in a manner that neither questions nor attacks the integrity of any ethnic, racial or religious group living in this country. If Congress finds that an individual or individuals broke federal campaign laws, then the

offender or offenders should be punished. But neither Congress nor the media should suggest, nor allow for it to be implied, that an entire community of people is responsible for the improprieties of a few individuals.

With the publicity surrounding those contributors alleged to have given money improperly, the legitimate, appropriate and positive political activity of the Asian-American community has become obscured. The many Asian-Americans that I know and consider to be my friends are active in their communities and are as committed to improving the quality of life for their families and their children as any other group of Americans. In fact, the 1996 campaign proved that the Asian-American community's participation in the political process is growing. Asian-American civil rights and community groups organized an unprecedented nationwide naturalization drive to ensure that eligible individuals became citizens and exercised their full contributory rights. Community leaders encouraged people to speak out about important issues, vote in record numbers, and run for office. This is the kind of participation that, as Americans, we should welcome and encourage, particularly from a community that was effectively silenced by one of this country's most ignoble acts of legislation, the 1884 Chinese Exclusion Act.

Unfortunately, the racial accusations that have come to eclipse the genuine issue of campaign finance reform have created an atmosphere of fear and anxiety among politically active Asian-Americans. We cannot afford, Mr. Speaker, to again silence the voice of this still underrepresented community. Nor can we afford to ignore the positive contributions and electoral accomplishments of Asian-Americans in this country. Advances are being made in science, education and government thanks to the efforts of this community. And just last year in Washington state, Gary Locke, the son of Chinese immigrants, became the first person of Asian descent to win a governorship on the continental United States.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I urge members of the media, the political arena and the public to keep their focus on the real task at hand—to determine how we can prevent campaign fundraising scandals from ever happening again. I realize that we all would like to bring to justice anyone who has knowingly and willingly broken our laws. But we cannot allow the integrity of the Asian-American community to be sacrificed in the name of a misguided pursuit of justice. Asian-Americans have proven themselves exemplary citizens and deserving participants in the American democratic process.

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

### HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, as we begin work this week, the week after the Senate failed to pass campaign finance reform legislation, many in the media are proclaiming campaign finance reform dead. I disagree, there is still a chance if the House of Representatives

passes our own bill. I hope Mr. Speaker that you do not use the vote in the Senate as an excuse for failing to act in this House.

A majority of the Senate supported the McCain-Feingold campaign reform bill. A majority of the members of the House, as judged by those who have signed on to campaign reform legislation, support campaign finance reform. The will of the majority in the Senate was denied because of Senate rules which requires 60 votes to end debate and pass a bill. The only way the will of the majority in the House can be denied is by your failing to schedule a vote on this issue.

We have been promised a vote on campaign finance reform before the end of March. The people of this nation have demanded that we act to clean up our broken election system. They will be watching to insure that the vote this month is a fair vote without poison pills. Mr. Speaker the people of my district refuse to take "no" for an answer. Do not let them down by denying the will of the majority.

## BEST WISHES TO JAMES R. ADAMS

### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the employees of Texas Instruments, Inc. in honoring and congratulating James R. Adams on his upcoming retirement on April 16, 1998 following the company's annual meeting of stockholders. Mr. Adams is currently Chairman of the Board of Directors, and while he will remain a director of the company and serve on various boards, his direction and leadership in the capacity of chairman will be missed. He is deserving of this retirement, which will actually be his second. Originally, Mr. Adams came out of retirement in June 1996 to serve as TI Chairman following the untimely death of Jerry R. Junkins, who had been TI's chairman, president and CEO since 1985.

Under Mr. Adams' leadership and vision, TI was formed into a more successful company for the future, specializing in digital signal processing solutions, the fastest-growing segment of the semiconductor industry. During Mr. Adams' tenure, TI's digital signal processor and mixed-signal/analog revenues almost doubled over the past two years, improving TI's financial performance and increasing shareholder profits.

However, as Chairman, Mr. Adams was just as focused in having TI serve its surrounding community as he was focused in having the company increase its financial earnings. I know Jim Adams as someone who made sure that his company had a civic duty and responsibility of contributing and volunteerism in the community. He knew that a company should invest in students and schools in addition to investing in stocks and semiconductors. While ensuring this his company knew the benefits and good business of assisting education, he commits his personal time in doing the same, as a member of the Baylor University Hankamer School of Business Advisory Board,



the University of Texas Engineering School Advisory Council and the Texas A&M Capital Campaign Steering Committee. As his successor, Mr. Thomas Engibous acknowledged: "His experience, counsel and outreach to the community have contributed significantly to the new realization of the new TI." Because of that outreach, he made TI, not only a corporate giant, but one with a giant care and concern for the community.

Before his association with TI, Mr. Adams had an extensive career in the telecommunications industry. He joined Southwestern Bell Telephone Company in 1965, the same year he earned his MBA in statistics and business finance from the University of Texas at Austin. He began his career as a computer supervisor in San Antonio, and, after holding many influential positions throughout the country with Southwestern Bell and AT&T, he became president of Southwestern Bell in 1988.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to those active professional tasks, Jim finds the time to participate in many activities in business, government, civic affairs and education, most notably serving on the board of the Dallas Citizens Council, the Telecom Corridor Technology Business Council and the Dallas Symphony Association.

I wish Jim the best of luck as, once again, he embarks on a new phase of his life in the form of retirement. I hope that this time, he gives himself an official retirement after a lifetime of achievement for Texas Instruments and the greater Dallas community.

#### OPPOSING THE PLANNED MERGER OF MCI COMMUNICATIONS AND WORLD COM

#### HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on January 5, 1998, the Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., and the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition filed comments with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in Washington, opposing the planned merger of MCI Communications and WorldCom. The Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO (CWA) also opposed the merger, but this was not well covered by the mainstream media.

It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that the points which Reverend Jackson and the CWA have raised with the FCC deserve serious consideration and debate. At \$48 billion, this will be the largest corporate merger in this Nation's history. It involves two companies which have historically opposed the right of their workers to organize and belong to labor unions. It also involves two companies which historically have limited their investment in many of our Nation's under-served communities.

In February 1996, President Clinton called for the American telecommunications industry to expand its capital investment, to expand its hiring, and to expand its efforts to build a stronger, more connected America.

Since then, MCI and WorldCom have channeled virtually all of their investment to serving business and upper income communities.

They have made no investment in America's inner cities. In fact, when you look at the leadership of these two massive companies, Mr. Speaker, it reflects virtually none of today's rich American tapestry of diversity.

Only one of 14 members of the MCI board of directors is not of European American descent, and WorldCom's board of directors is the only major telecommunications company in the U.S. whose board of directors is made up of only white men, with no race or gender diversity.

Mr. Speaker, we all hear and read about how these giant corporate mergers are going to help, but how will they help issues of job creation and greater opportunities for All Americans?

I would like to commend Reverend Jackson for addressing this important issue.

#### ADDRESS OF SPEAKER GINGRICH TO THE WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE

#### HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, on January 13, 1998 House Speaker Newt Gingrich addressed a Joint Session of the Washington State Legislature in my home State of Washington. In his remarks, he suggested four goals for the country. First, that we as a society focus on being drug-free. Second, that we need to emphasize education and learning. Third, that we should talk about rethinking retirement. And fourth, that we ought to reduce the total amount of taxes the citizens owe their government. Mr. Speaker, these are noble goals.

I am delighted to be here. Let me start by saying to all of you, we share a common future, that it is important to build better abilities to communicate, and we are working very hard, both with the governors and with the leaders of state legislatures, to learn how to share what works, what does not work, what the federal government is doing right, what it is doing wrong, and whether we have a common, general direction we are trying to go in. To recognize, in a country our size, that there is an enormous difference between Washington, D.C. and the state of Washington, just as there is an enormous difference between Washington, D.C. and Georgia.

And so, how do we have a common, general direction while maximizing our decentralization, maximizing local leadership and maximizing local initiatives? I want to share with you, for a few minutes if I could this morning, what we have done and where we were going. But frankly, it is exciting to me to see what you have done. You have implemented Welfare Reform in a very practical way. You have begun to take advantage of the opportunity to help people move out of poverty and into work, in what I think is a very, very important step in the right direction. You are working on Education Reform in a way that is very practical, and which is going to increase the chance of learning for all the children of this state. You recognize how much your state is connected to the world market, whether it is through Boeing or Microsoft or Weyerhaeuser or wheat farm-

ing; that, in fact, what happens in Jakarta does matter in Spokane and Seattle and Olympia and across the whole state.

We are, in a sense, entering a new era together. In the Capitol, in Washington, we tried to reach out. Let me say, first of all, I think the Western Governors' University is a very exciting project. I commend all of you who have voted to have your state participate in it; the notion that you are really now becoming pioneers for the whole country, in telecommunications, in the use of distance learning, and in making available to all citizens across an eight-state region an opportunity to share educational resources. That is a very important development, and it is ultimately going to allow you to lead, not just the United States but the entire world as people tie in and then learn from these experiences.

I also have to say that the Western States Coalition that Speaker Ballard talked about. I found last summer to be very helpful. We brought a number of eastern members out, and as you know, the West is different. It is bigger. It is more complex. In some parts of the West, water problems are dramatically different. We in Georgia never quite experience the same water situation as in Eastern Washington. We are in a situation where we have a huge surplus of water most of the time. We do not understand Western water laws compared to Eastern law.

To be in situations where we can look at the coming together of modern urban civilization, because in every Western state there are urban areas, and in fact, some of the Western states are more urbanized than some of the Eastern states in terms of the way people are, to look at that next to the environmental concerns, next to the agricultural, mining and forest concerns, to see it first hand, is important. I have already told the Speaker that I will be back, hopefully, in August for a visit to Washington state to look at the Columbia River Basin, to look at other concerns, and to get a better briefing on the issues that matter. And also to fly to Alaska, and look at our largest state and what their unique concerns are.

I commend those legislative and other leaders who began to develop a Western state coalition to talk through what we should do at the federal level to increase flexibility within a framework of still getting to a common, general direction. I think the information age, with Microsoft and many other developments here is going to give us some opportunities that are enormous. I think the world market gives us opportunities that are enormous. And as the state that houses our most successful exporter of manufactured goods, Boeing, you know how important the world market is. But I think they also offer us opportunities to work together.

One of the things I hope to do is to introduce the spirit of Peter Drucker and Edwards Demming into the whole way we think about government. Peter Drucker is the leading management consultant of the Twentieth Century, and Edwards Demming developed the concept of quality and taught that concept to the Japanese. In fact, the prize for the best company in Japan is the Demming Prize. They are really talking about a way of thinking that is a powerful, information age modernization over the bureaucratic model we have all inherited at every level. From school board, to city council, to county commission, to state government, to federal government, we have a model of structures that needs to be thoroughly rethought.

I will give you a simple example. I know this is true in Georgia; I will let you decide

if it is true in Washington. My wife, Marianne, went to spend \$15 last fall. She did not go to a place like Nordstroms because she waited in line an hour and a half. She was not buying Beanie Babies or some fad that justifies that. She was getting her driver's license.

I suggest to you that you have two clocks in your head. You have been acculturated to have these two clocks. One clock has a second hand and you use it every time you go into the private sector facility. When you go to McDonald's, when you go to a department store, when you stand waiting to be served, there is a second hand which you watch prior to getting impatient. The second clock has fifteen-minute increments and you use it when you walk into public buildings. You will inherently wait longer and be less impatient. Now, in both experiences you are paying money. In one case, it is taken from you in taxes and in the other case it is voluntary. You are a customer in both cases. But we have allowed, over the last 50 years, the private sector to modernize, to rethink what it is doing, to maximize its customer orientation, while allowing the public sector to find excuse after excuse to avoid rethinking its development.

Part of what I hope we can do together is think through what a Twentieth Century information age, customer-oriented model of governance would look like? How would you design it? How would you staff it? How would you reward people who were effective, and retrain people who were ineffective? Or dismiss them if they refuse to learn? And how can we think that process through so that people 20 years from now have the same expectation of efficiency, customer orientation and modern performance out of the public sector that they have out of the private sector? And that would lead to a revolution in the structure of our governments.

I think it has to be done together because the truth is, and this is a message I have for every state legislature as well county commissions, school boards and city councils, there are things we do in Washington, D.C. which make it harder for you in Washington state to be effective. One of the things I would encourage you to do is to identify in literally every one of your legislative committees, and report back to us, those things we should change which are stopping you from modernizing the government of the state of Washington. I think I can speak for all three of the members here with me today—for Jennifer Dunn, who is now the highest-ranking elected woman legislator in the U.S. Congress as the vice-chair of our conference; for George Nethercutt, who is doing a tremendous job on the Appropriations Committee; for Linda Smith, who has been working very, very hard on reform issues—I think they would say the whole delegation is prepared to try to serve as a bridge to come back and say to us, "The following 37 laws are pretty dumb. The following 600 regulations do not work. The following micro-management is making it impossible to reform."

I want to extend to you an open door, to say we would like to learn from you, at the grass roots, what you are experiencing that you think makes it harder for you to do the job for the people of the state of Washington.

We have had an impact in the Congress. When we were sworn in in January of 1995, the Congressional Budget Office was projecting a \$320 billion deficit for the year 2002. They are now projecting a \$32 billion surplus. Now you are legislators. I would suggest to you that any legislative body which, in three

years, can move a system from a \$320 billion deficit to a \$32 billion surplus has begun a process of fairly dramatic change. Some of that was the economy. But we also saved \$600 billion in entitlements, we passed Welfare Reform which, as you know, has had a dramatic impact. In New York state alone there are 509,000 fewer people on welfare today than there were three years ago. They have moved from the public sector, where they were taking money from the taxpayer, to the private sector where they are paying taxes. It has been a major factor on what has happened with the budget turnaround.

Because we are committed to a balanced budget, we have lowered interest rates by at least two percentage points over what they would have been otherwise. That has had a huge effect on farming, or purchasing cars and buying houses, on paying off student loans, and on all the different things people pay interest on, including what governments pay in interest.

We think we have begun. But we have a lot to do, and a long way to go. I want to propose to you that there are four major goals, lots of things we need to do together. I could talk today about the ICE T bill in transportation, because I know it is an important issue. I could talk about a wide range of issues that matter. But I want to focus on four today. Although, before I do, I do want to commend you for your rainy day fund. I was calculating based on the size of your budget; if we had a comparable rainy day fund, it would be about \$90 billion. I will let you imagine a Washington, D.C. that would allow \$90 billion to sit there without having approximately \$400 billion of new ideas! But I do commend you because it is the right direction and it is the way we should be moving.

I want to suggest four goals to you. First, that we become a society that focuses on being drug-free and, therefore with dramatically less violence. Second, as you are already doing, we really emphasize education and learning. Third, we have now come to a point in our history where we should talk about rethinking retirement. And fourth, that we ought to talk openly about what is the total amount of taxes the citizens should owe their government in a peacetime environment. Let me briefly talk about each. Let me be candid and say these will only work in collaboration. They will only work if we work together.

I think the number one goal we should establish is to break the back of the drug trade and the back of the drug culture. To insist that our children deserve to live in a drug-free society where they are not threatened with addiction and where they are not threatened physically. I believe, as a historian, we can do it. We have done it before. We did it in the 1920's. Other countries have done it. It is a matter of willpower, focus, resources and management.

I came today to ask you and your governor to work together to tell us, from the state of Washington, what you need from the federal government as your highest priority to enable you to have a drug-free Washington state. What do we have to do to do our share of the job? And then ask you to do your share of the job and make a genuine commitment.

I will just give you one specific statistic that I find staggering. If you are a woman, you are 27 times more likely to be killed if you are in a home with hard drugs than if you are in a drug-free home. Not 27 percent, but 27 times. That is 2700 percent more likely to be killed. And when we talk about vio-

lence in America, I do not think we can talk about the future without realizing how much of that is tied to drugs. We realize that in New York City alone, there are 32 drug-addicted babies born every week. The human and financial cost of not taking on drugs is horrendous.

We are challenging General McCaffrey to produce a World War II-style victory plan. I think we need a decisive, sharp, two- or three-year effort to break the back of the drug culture, to make it too expensive to use drugs. And to recognize that the problem is not in Colombia. The problem is not in Mexico. The problem is in the streets, the neighborhoods and the schools of America, and in the professional sports of America and among some of the rock stars of America. If we are not buying it, they are not going to be shipping it. We have an obligation to start in America to win the war on drugs—to be the model country for everyone else, to not just lecture Mexicans and Colombians on what we wish they would do because we do not have the guts to do it here at home.

If you will let us know, whether by resolution, by report, or by letter, what we need to do to help you win the war in the state of Washington, and if we can get every state legislature engaged and every state government engaged, I truly believe, in three or four years, we will be a drug-free country. And I can imagine nothing, nothing that will do more for children's health than to be able to win the war on drugs and save them from that kind of a future.

Second, I want to pledge to you our commitment to work with you on Education Reform. I want to draw one distinction between education and learning. I think we want the best education system in the world, and I think we want the best system of learning in the world. They are not necessarily the same. Here again, I want to thank Microsoft, where I will be spending part of the afternoon studying. We have an education system that is teach-focused. A learning system is student-focused.

We have the potential in the next decade to build a seven-day-a-week, 24-hour-a-day learning system available for a lifetime, which you can access from anywhere at any time at your convenience and learn as much as you are capable of learning. We should make it a national goal to really encourage the development of that kind of learning system. To some extent, your Western State Governors' University is a step in the direction, but we are only scratching the surface. We have the potential for everyone to learn, and to do it at their convenience. Now, this is not a panacea. It is not a replacement for an education system. But it is an important enhancer, and it will allow us to leapfrog, not catch up, not match up with, but leapfrog the Japanese, Germans and others in providing the best system of learning in the world, which is essential if we were going to have the best economic competition in the world. Because, if you do not have good learning in the information age, you cannot produce the technology you need in order to have the best jobs in the world. So this is vital to our entire future.

In addition, we need the best education system. I favor scholarships, so that in really bad neighborhoods parents have the right to choose. But this is not going to solve the problem. Most children in America are going to learn in public schools for the rest of their lifetimes. I am a product of public schools. My wife is a product of public schools. Both of our daughters went to public school. I taught part-time when I was a college teacher. I also taught in the public high school.



Most schools do pretty well. But every one of you knows that there are some schools in this state you would not send your children to, just as you know there are some schools in my state that I would not send my children to.

And here is the test for us. We say in our Declaration of Independence that we are endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We have to take that passionately and apply it to education reform. This means that every child of every ethnic background in every neighborhood has been endowed by God with the right to pursue happiness. In the information age, if you are not learning how to read and write, and you are not getting an education, you are more likely to go to prison than to go to college, and you are not being given the true opportunity to pursue happiness. I think that is how we ought to approach education reform.

We ought to say first of all to a school system, let us start writing into the contract that if your school is in the bottom 20 percent in scoring, the contract does not apply any more, as of that date. Not "Let us slowly modify tenure." Not "Let us have a study commission." You would not leave your children in those schools. We have too many of our friends who are very big passionate supporters of the worst public schools, but their kids go to private school. We have too many teachers who pay the union dues and they want to make sure that we do not reform public schools; but their children go to private school. There are some big city systems where 40 percent of the public school teachers send their children to private school because they know better. We have an obligation to be passionate about this. Winston Churchill had a phrase for World War II. He would pass a note that said, "Action this day." This should be our attitude across the board to the system.

I want to suggest three reforms that are very specific. Two of them we are not going to do at the federal level, one we have to. But I am here as a citizen sharing ideas; I am not here to say we are going mandate any.

I do want to suggest as a general principle that we should have a passionate, deep commitment to every child in American learning how to read by end of the fourth grade. We should focus overwhelmingly on learning how to read and write in the fourth grade. I am going to be very direct: we should learn how to read and write in English, because that is the commercial language of the United States, and they are having their future crippled if they cannot read and write by the fourth grade.

Second, I think that the federal government should modify the bilingual education law to make it local option. You at the state level and the school boards at the local level should have the right to decide for your children what is the most effective way to make sure that they are capable of reading and writing in English at the earliest possible time.

And third, I would really like to suggest you consider, and I say this upon the state with some trepidation, but I would like you to consider mandating that, once a year, at every grade level, a day be spent looking at the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. I say this for two reasons. First, as a historian, I actually think it is kind of good for Americans to learn how they became American. We are multi-ethnic, but we are one civilization. We are bound together by this thing of being American. We

signed a contract with ourselves. We the people of the United States, we issued a declaration that says "we hold these truths to be self-evident." And if our citizens do not grow up learning these things, how can we expect America to continue?

But secondly, the Declaration says, "We are endowed by our Creator . . ." Now, I want to see the ACLU lawsuit that explains why the teacher cannot explain what the Founding Fathers meant when they used the word "Creator". I think it would be a very edifying moment in American history.

America is radically different than Europe. In the European model, power went from God to the king and was loaned to the citizens. This is why Brussels is worse than the IRS. In the European model, the citizen only has those rights loaned to them by the state. In the American model, from our opening date of our first document, we said power goes from God to the citizen, and you loan it back to the government. It is a very different model. And I just think if we spent one day a year from the first grade to twelfth grade studying that model, coming into contact with the great people who created this country, we would be a healthier country. We would be a country with a better sense of where our rights come from. We would be a country with a more serious sense of why being a citizen matters. And so I want to commend that to you.

Our third goal is to look at retirement. A lot of that is federal. But I also have a proposal that I think you will find interesting at the state level. And this is very simple. We are moving from 60 years of deficit spending. We were about to move to a generation of surpluses. This is not like 1969, the last surplus. We had lots of deficits, one year of surplus, and then lots of deficits. If we were disciplined in Washington, and if we avoid war, we will be in a position to have twenty or thirty years of surpluses.

This gives us for the first time a chance to talk seriously about retirement, to recognize that Social Security is a very powerful and tremendous system developed in 1925 when there were no computers. But Social Security is neither personal nor modern. In fact, in one study that Congressman Mark Sanford of South Carolina put out, he looked at his 20-year-old son. He said "You know, Einstein was asked, 'What is the most powerful thing in the universe?' And he said, 'Compound interest.'" If you simply take the FICA tax a 20-year-old will pay today and invest their FICA tax over their lifetime, in an average market basket investment, not buying Microsoft when it is young, but an average market basket investment, they will make \$975,000 for their retirement. If you give them the current government payment, they will make \$175,000. So, we are condemning 20-year-olds to lose \$800,000 by the way we have designed the system.

I am proposing a National Commission on Retirement, made up of one-third baby boomers, one-third older than baby boomers, and one-third younger than baby boomers. I suggest to my colleagues in the House and Senate that they set up a citizens committee in their district tied in by the Internet to the National Commission. I think we ought to look at the totality, because I believe that by using a good part of the surpluses intelligently, we can make the transition to a personal, modern social security system, tied into the development of better pensions and tied into the development of better savings. And we can leave our children and grandchildren a dramatically better retirement in a much wealthier country with a much high-

er savings rate with much lower interest rates and much more capital investment. And that is a much healthier America in the future.

And I know it takes some courage for elected officials to raise the issue, but I just think we are at a magic moment of transition. I believe the grandparents, as long as they are secure in getting the current system, will want their grandchildren to have the best possible future. And I believe we can have an honest, adult, dialogue about this without the kind of mudslinging and the kind of 30-second commercials that so badly weaken our political structures. So, I encourage you to look at it, to offer us advice, but I also encourage you to look at the state program. I do not know the details of your program, but I will tell you that Michigan has now adopted a new, personal pension system that vests within two years, where the new employees are controlling their own money in a way that is a very dramatic departure from the way we have done pensions in the last 60 years.

Finally, I want to ask a very touchy question, and you are the first group of legislators I have done this with. So I will be very curious to see your reaction after I leave and you no longer have to be polite because I am around. I want to raise a serious question: In peacetime, in a free society, how much should your government be allowed to take from you?

I was fascinated when I read Paul Johnson's new History of the American People. He is a former socialist in Britain turned conservative and he has written a wonderful history of the American people. And he said that in 1775, we were probably the lowest-taxed people in the history of the world and we hated every penny. And he said we were so grateful that we were so low-taxed as to say, "How come you need this?" And the part about how much freedom, in part, is a function of how much time you have. How much money do you have? Not how much does your government have to give to you. How much do you have? And it turns out that when you study it that the American people said for forty years that they believe, in peacetime, the most their government should take from them is 25 percent. We currently—federal, state and local—take 38.

And what I would like to propose is that we set a goal over the next ten to fifteen years to get to 25 percent taxation. The feds currently take about 22 percent. I propose we go down to 14 percent. So we lose 8 percent. State and local currently takes about 16 percent, I propose state and local goes down to about 11 percent. So we will drop by more than you will have to drop. But, I think it is fair for you to come back to us and say, "Fine, how about block-granting education money rather than having 700 little programs? How about dropping this kinds of red tape?" I think it is a two-way dialogue.

But, if we take Demming and Drucker; if we are prepared to prioritize, modernize, downsize and privatize, we can create, over the next ten to fifteen years, a country where people have more take-home pay, a better retirement system, a lifetime learning system, and an education system that either works or is changed rapidly when it starts to fail. People will be competitive in the world market, having the highest technology and the greatest entrepreneurship to produce the best goods, giving us the highest incomes with the greatest economic security and the capacity to lead the world.

Yes, this is big. Yes, it is a lot. But, frankly, the Contract With America was pretty

different when we started and I am very proud that at the key moment in the fall of 1994, we bought a two-page ad in TV Guide that did not attack anybody, did not have any pictures. It just said, "You hire us and we will try to do these ten things." And I think the time has come as citizens, across the board in both parties, to talk about for the next generation, "What are the goals worth doing? Let us work together to do it."

I accept fully the responsibility today that I have come here and said, you come up with ideas on the drug war; we have to listen to you and at least try to help. You come up with what we need to do to get out of your way in education; we have an obligation to listen and try to help. You tell us what we are doing wrong about pensions that make your job harder, let us know. And you tell us how you think we should change federal pension law. It would be very helpful and we would listen to you.

And finally, if we are going to get there together, we have an obligation both to shrink the federal government and to shrink the burden the federal government imposes on you. But, I think for our citizens, the America I just described would be a vastly better place.

And let me just close with this thought. Every time I come out here, I have to tell you, I just love coming to this state. I think part of it relates to the fact that I was here—some of you will be able to identify this—a few years ago on a stopover and went down to the fish market and bought a geoduck and took it to my mother-in-law, who promptly chopped it up and made stew out of it. I have to say, also, that I just brought back a very wonderful salmon that they identified with much more immediately and ate immediately.

But, it is a fabulous state. You sort of have this sense, I always have this sense, when I come here what Lewis and Clark must have felt. As an easterner, when I fly in and look out at Mt. Rainier, when I look at Puget Sound, when I see the weather, even on rare days like yesterday—again, for a Georgian, it was very exciting—I think we lose, sometimes, the romanticism of what this country is about. This country is a romance. This country has the most magical way of saying to the whole planet, "I do not care what your background is, I do not care what your religion is, I do not care what your ethnicity is. If you have a big enough dream and you are willing to pursue it, come to America and try it out." And the result has been to put together the most exciting opportunities for people in the history of the world.

This is a great country filled with good people and given a chance to achieve remarkable things. I believe we can work together in a partnership—not us dictating to you—but in a partnership. And we can give our children and grandchildren an even greater America with an even greater future. And through that, we can give the entire human race an opportunity to live in freedom and prosperity and safety.

Thank you for honoring me by allowing me to come here today. Thank you.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PATSY T. MINK**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, on February 11 and 12, 1998, I was granted a leave

of absence and according missed Roll Call votes number 12 through 17. Had I been present I would have voted No on Roll Call number 12, and Yes on Roll Call number 13, Yes on Roll Call number 14, Yes on Roll Call number 15, Yes on Roll Call number 16, and No on Roll call number 17.

#### HONORING THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN HISPANIC CHURCH

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to recognize the First Presbyterian Hispanic Church.

The Cuban patriot Jose Marti once said: "We need temples of love and humanity that free everything that is generous in man." Marti's vision was one shared by Reverend Ernesto Sosa, a constituent of my congressional district. Reverend Sosa, along with a group of dedicated leaders, founded the Primera Iglesia Hispana Prebysteriana, the First Presbyterian Hispanic Church on March 2, 1958, in Miami, Florida. This group of dedicated community leaders who for many years had fought for freedom and democracy in Cuba, returned to there in the hopes of establishing the church in their homeland. Their dreams were shattered, however, when the Castro dictatorship set itself on a course of religious oppression and persecution.

The group returned to this great country where individual freedoms are not only valued but protected and when they would be free to complete their generous and noble task. The church began by establishing a center to assist new refugees, a place where regardless of race or creed, people were offered food, clothing and medicine. A year after the establishment of the center, a clinic and nursery were developed to provide additional services to the community. The center not only offered resources to the public, but spiritual guidance at a time when many of these families were suffering through the difficulty of being separated from their loved ones and adjusting to life in their new country.

The Iglesia Prebysteriana Hispana de Miami eventually built a new temple to accommodate their growing congregation. The current pastor, Reverend Mardoqueo Munoz-Castillo, continues to lead the congregation in weekly Sunday masses. Today, after celebrating the fortieth anniversary of their founding, the church provides a variety of support resources to the public and, as always, important spiritual guidance.

#### NATIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL MONTH

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to stand before this great legislative body during

Education Week to acknowledge the positive educational initiatives that are taking place in the Second Congressional District of Massachusetts.

This month is National Middle Level Education Month, and I would like to take this opportunity to commend Mary E. Wells Junior High School in Southbridge, Massachusetts for the strides they are making in promoting academic excellence to all of their students. Mary E. Wells Junior High School, under the leadership of Principal Brian Abdallah and Vice-Principal Bryant Montigny, has submitted to me a Proclamation that epitomizes the direction that education and standards of excellence should follow across the nation. Mary E. Wells Junior High School attained the privilege and honor of being nominated by the Massachusetts Department of Education as a Blue Ribbon School for the 1997-1998 school year. This distinction gives credence to the diligence and dedication of the teaching staff at Wells and the positive outcomes that can result when challenging standards and curriculum exist and teaching and active learning partnerships are pursued.

#### PROCLAMATION

*Whereas*, middle level education has a special and unique function in the nation's education system; and

*Whereas*, young adolescents are undergoing dramatic physical, social, emotional and intellectual growth and are especially vulnerable; and

*Whereas*, the habits and values established during early adolescence have critical, life-long influence; and

*Whereas*, this influence affects the future health and welfare of our nation; and

*Whereas*, an adequate public understanding of the distinctive mission of the middle level school is necessary for that mission to succeed; and

*Whereas*, it is incumbent upon all of us in education and in the larger community to have high expectations for all students, educators, schools, parents, and community members for middle school students to achieve and develop to their fullest potential;

*Therefore be it Resolved*, that the month of March 1998 be declared National Middle Level Education Month; and is being celebrated at Mary E. Wells Junior High School in Southbridge, Massachusetts.

*Resolved*, that the public be afforded special opportunities to visit middle schools and participate in programs that focus on the nature of young adolescents, celebrate the ways in which our nation's schools respond to their needs and to the needs of the nation; and *Resolved*, that the public be encouraged to commit to working with schools to provide the highest standard of schooling and highest expectations for all adolescents and adults working with them.

#### TRIBUTE TO NEW YORK SENATOR NORMAN J. LEVY (1931-1998)

**HON. RICK LAZIO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to respectfully acknowledge the passing of New York State Senator Norman J. Levy on Saturday, February 7, 1998.



True heroes do not come around very often. Heroes take chances, they demonstrate courage, and they fight for those who are in need. Senator Levy was such a hero, a champion for Long Island and New York. He was an extraordinary example of a public leader.

I am fortunate to have known Senator Levy for many years and I very much admired him for his moral compass, dedication to public service, and his ability to work for his constituents. Senator Levy was a remarkable individual who lived his life with dignity and grace, earning the respect of the Long Island community. He dedicated his life to making this same community a safer and more enjoyable place to live and work.

Senator Levy has a long and distinguished career serving the State of New York, beginning in the Nassau County District Attorney's office and then serving in the New York State Senate since 1970. In the State Senate, he developed and fought to pass innovative legislation. Among his many achievements, Senator Levy sponsored the first mandatory seat-belt law, ensuring that drivers and passengers are safe on New York roads. He was also an active proponent for special education and had an open and direct relationship with teachers and parents.

Not only did Senator Levy work on behalf of the residents of New York State in the State Legislature, but he was also very active in many community organizations and charities.

For his many personal achievements and most importantly for his friendship, I will fondly remember New York State Senator Norman Levy and continue to look to him as one of the best examples of a dedicated and conscientious public servant. I am proud to have known such an extraordinary individual.

With Senator Levy's passing the people of Long Island and New York have lost a great friend.

TRIBUTE TO NEW YORK STATE  
SENATOR NORMAN J. LEVY (1931-1998)

**HON. PETER T. KING**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of New York's greatest statesmen, Senator Norman Levy. Norm Levy passed away last month, after a long illness. He will be missed.

Norm Levy was one of the giants of the New York State Legislature. He was a dominant presence in the Senate and was admired and respected by members of both parties. As Chairman of the Transportation Committee, he was instrumental in directing policy on issues affecting the lives of all New Yorkers.

Norm Levy was also a strong voice for Long Island in Albany. He was unmatched in seeing to it that our region's concerns were addressed by the state government.

Norm Levy's absence leaves a great void in Long Island politics. He was an outstanding legislator, a sharp-minded and insightful politician, and unlike many people in our business, a truly nice guy. I was always proud to call him my friend.

The people of Long Island and all of New York State will be poorer for his loss.

TRIBUTE TO NEW YORK STATE  
SENATOR NORMAN J. LEVY (1931-1998)

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join my colleagues from Long Is-

land in honoring the accomplishments of a distinguished public servant, State Senator Norman J. Levy. Senator Levy recently passed away, leaving behind a strong legacy of commitment and dedication to the State of New York and Long Island in particular.

Norman J. Levy was well known and respected by the people of Nassau County. He was born on January 24, 1931 in Rockville Center, New York and attended elementary school in Lynbrook and Malverne. After receiving degrees from Bucknell University and Brooklyn Law School, Mr. Levy began his career of service to the American people by joining the U.S. Army as a Chief Legal Clerk to the Army Staff Judge Advocate from 1954 to 1956.

In 1958, Norman Levy became the first law intern of the Nassau County District Attorney's office and moved-up to become Assistant District Attorney of Nassau County in 1959. In 1962, he was appointed Chief of the Nassau County Rackets Bureau where he fought organized crime until being elected to the New York Senate in 1970.

While representing the people of Nassau County in the Senate, Senator Levy distinguished himself as a true leader. He served as Chairman of the Committee on Labor and later as Chairman of the Committee on Transportation. He also served as Chairman of the Senate Task Force on Drunk Driving. Chairman Levy became a nationally recognized advocate for safety by sponsoring anti-DWI legislation and highway safety laws, including our nation's first mandatory seat-belt law.

Mr. Speaker, we will miss Senator Levy. And we will remember him fondly as a champion in the fight for safety and the fight against crime. Through his dedication and commitment, he made Long Island, and the whole State of New York, a safer and better place for our families.